

Referendum vote to be declared on a county basis

Government's recommendation that a referendum should be held on a county basis was rejected as during a free vote in the House of Commons last night. A successful amendment to the Bill would have required the referendum to be held on a county basis.

Mr. Short rejects national count

Mr. Short said that the Government's proposal for a referendum on the EEC was not a referendum at all, but a vote on a single issue. He said that the Government was trying to turn the referendum into a vote on a single issue, which would be a betrayal of the principle of a referendum. He said that the Government was trying to turn the referendum into a vote on a single issue, which would be a betrayal of the principle of a referendum.

Ministers disagree on document

There was a disagreement among Ministers over the content of a document which was to be presented to the public. The document was intended to provide information about the referendum and the Government's position. The disagreement was over the wording of the document, which was intended to be a neutral and factual statement.



The Queen with Dr Fleming, Dean of Windsor, after she had attended a service of thanksgiving at St George's Chapel yesterday with members of the Royal Family. (Report, page 18.)

Warning to doctors on use of heart drug

A warning has been issued to doctors about the use of a heart drug called Eraldin. The drug is used to treat heart disease, but it has been found that it can cause serious side effects if it is not used correctly. Doctors are advised to be careful when prescribing the drug and to monitor patients closely.

Spending cut warning by Mr Healey

Mr. Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has issued a warning about the need for spending cuts. He said that the Government was facing a large budget deficit and that it would have to take difficult decisions about where to cut. He said that the Government was committed to reducing the deficit and that it would not be afraid to make the necessary cuts.

Vietcong deride plea for ceasefire as troops surge south

The Vietcong have derided a plea for a ceasefire as they continue to surge southwards. They said that the plea was a trick to lull the Americans into a false sense of security. They said that they were determined to continue their fight until they had achieved their goals. They said that they were not interested in a ceasefire until they had won the war.

'Asphyxiation bombs' used in Vietnam

Reports from Vietnam claim that 'asphyxiation bombs' have been used by the North Vietnamese. These bombs are designed to cause suffocation in people who breathe the air around them. They are said to be particularly effective in crowded areas. The reports claim that the bombs have caused many deaths and injuries.

£100m to be spent on saving French economy

The French Government has announced that it will spend £100 million to help the French economy. The money will be used to support various industries and to provide financial assistance to businesses that are struggling. The Government said that this was a necessary measure to help the French economy recover from its current difficulties.

Leyland shares suspended as Ryder report is awaited

The shares of Leyland have been suspended because of the Ryder report. The report is expected to have a significant impact on the company's shares. The suspension is a precautionary measure until the report has been fully analyzed. The company is expected to release the report soon.

Steel chief clashes with Mr Benn on job cuts

There has been a clash between the steel industry and Mr. Benn over job cuts. Mr. Benn is demanding that the steel industry reduce its workforce, but the industry is resisting. They say that they need the workers to maintain production levels. The clash has led to a series of negotiations, but no agreement has been reached yet.



Land Ownership. Will your son ever succeed?

Today the landowner who passes his property on to his son may be faced with a combination of Capital Gains and Capital Transfer Tax. This is a new problem for landowners, and it is one that they need to be aware of. The taxes can be significant, and they can make it difficult for the son to inherit the property without a large financial outlay.

Death by coroner after 'ism' verdict

A death has been ruled by a coroner after a verdict of 'ism'. The verdict was reached after a long and complex investigation. The coroner said that the death was caused by a combination of factors, and that the verdict of 'ism' was the most appropriate one. The family of the deceased is expected to be satisfied with the verdict.

Police open fire on crowd in African township

Police have opened fire on a crowd in an African township. The incident occurred during a protest or demonstration. The police said that they were trying to disperse the crowd, but the crowd refused to move. The police then opened fire, and several people were injured. The incident has caused a great deal of concern and anger in the township.

Youths out of work may get welfare jobs

Young people who are out of work may be able to get welfare jobs. The Government is considering a scheme to provide jobs for young people who are unemployed. The jobs would be part-time and would be paid at a lower rate than full-time jobs. The scheme is intended to help young people gain experience and to provide them with a source of income.

Queen to open Olympics

The Queen is expected to open the Olympic Games. This is a traditional role for the monarch, and it is one that the Queen has performed many times before. The opening ceremony is a major event, and it is one that the Queen will be proud to participate in. The Queen will be accompanied by other members of the royal family.

Supermarket planned

A new supermarket is planned for the area. The supermarket will be a large store that will sell a wide range of goods. It is expected to be a popular destination for shoppers in the area. The supermarket will be built on a site that has been previously used for other purposes.

Men 'sent to kennels'

Men have been sent to kennels after a series of incidents. The incidents involved men who were found in a state of distress or who were causing a disturbance. The police decided to take them to kennels to ensure their safety and to prevent further incidents. The men are now being cared for by kennel staff.

Police open fire on crowd in African township

Police have opened fire on a crowd in an African township. This is a second report of such an incident in the area. The police said that they were trying to disperse the crowd, but the crowd refused to move. The police then opened fire, and several people were injured. The incidents have caused a great deal of concern and anger in the township.

Knights of the Realm

Knights of the Realm are being appointed. This is a traditional ceremony, and it is one that is highly regarded. The knights are appointed for their services to the country, and they are given the honor of being knights. The ceremony is a significant event, and it is one that the public is interested in.

Reach European Cup final

A team has reached the European Cup final. This is a major achievement, and it is one that the team and its supporters are proud of. The team has played a series of tough matches, and they have emerged as the winners. The final is a big event, and it is one that the public is interested in.

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HOME NEWS

Child-minders ep charges like dogs kennels, official says

By Roger
Reporter

Others are so desperate to find someone to look after their children while they go to work that they are prepared to pay a fortune for a child-minder. But a Royal Society of Arts report says that child-minders are in a deplorable condition.

Mr. Chaplin, director of services for Hertfordshire, said that child-minders were like dogs in kennels. He said that the children were often neglected and that the child-minders were often poorly paid.

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and talk. At the age of five when they were in school such children were as much as two years behind other children.

In a paper to the session on the day care of children, Mr. Chaplin said that it was necessary to ask whether the provision was really attractive to the children in greatest need, as the disadvantaged might be less likely to seek or to use what was provided.

That was true of apartment-dwelling parents, who frequently day care had been developed with the minimum involvement of parents. There was often conflict among social service staff about that, with inexperienced but well-meaning staff standing up to the parents. That might be detrimental to the child, particularly at a time of growing concern about the quality of substitute care.

Professor Paul Turner, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, told a session of the conference that there had been an explosion of duplicate drugs in recent years. There was no justification, he said, for the proliferation of drugs with properties that did not differ significantly from those already available.



Mr Ernest Ibbetson, St Albans museum caretaker, with two of the 150 orange frogs he has bred at Wheathampstead.

QC fears powers in Community Land Bill

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Grave misgivings about the sweeping powers contained in the Community Land Bill, and about the ability of the courts to provide adequate safeguards, were expressed yesterday by Mr David Widdicombe, QC.

"It is no exaggeration to say that, when the Bill becomes law, the Secretary of State will become a veritable dictator of development," he told a conference in London organized by the Centre for Advanced Land Use Studies.

"It is no good looking to the courts for control over these powers," he continued. "In one section, dealing with land acquisition and management schemes, the courts are expressly excluded, and the other sections are so widely and unconditionally drafted that the courts are effectively excluded."

Mr Widdicombe is one of a small group of barristers specializing in planning matters, and is a familiar figure at public inquiries. His strictures are certain to add considerable weight to the widespread criticism directed at the Bill.

"As a lawyer and student of our constitutional history, I find this Bill profoundly disturbing," he said. "In effect it gives complete power over the ownership and use of development land to the administrative authorities."

An owner would be at the mercy of those authorities and would have no effective rights of objection or defence to the taking of his land.

Miss Goodbody took own life

Dr Douglas Chambers, the St Pancras Coroner, said at the resumed inquest yesterday on the death of Mary Anne (Buz) Goodbody, aged 28, the stage director, that she had left copious notes making it clear that she intended to cause her death by taking a mixture of two sleeping tablets.

He said the style of at least one of the notes led him to the conclusion that she was not in a normal state of mind at the time. He recorded a verdict that she took her life while the balance of her mind was disturbed.

MP ordered to rest

Mr William Molloy, Labour MP for Ealing, North, has been ordered by his doctor to rest for 10 days.

VAT

Budget Changes

Guidance for Traders

If your business is concerned with:

Domestic appliances • Radio and Television
Boats and Aircraft • Caravans
Photographic equipment • Binoculars
Furs • Jewellery,
Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' wares

you should be aware that from May 1st the rate of VAT is increased to 25% on many goods and services in these fields.

Customs and Excise are posting two explanatory Notices to registered traders. No. 741 is about procedures for dealing with the higher rate, and No. 742 gives full details of the goods and services to which the higher rate applies.

If your business is affected by the Budget changes, or if it seems likely to be affected, and you have not yet received Notices Nos. 741 and 742, you will be able to get copies from your local Customs and Excise VAT Office, who will advise on any problems.

All Retailers please note

New VAT retail schemes were introduced on 1 April and are explained in Notice No. 727, already issued. Any retailer who postponed choosing a scheme from that notice until after the Budget should make the choice now, and send straight away for the appropriate Supplement to Notice No. 727, using the reply-paid card which was provided. If you have mislaid the Notice or the reply-paid card, the local Customs and Excise VAT Office will be able to give them to you.

00 libel ges for Bernstein

Bernstein, aged 76, of the Granada television group, was awarded £35,000 libel damages by the High Court yesterday in a case which he had won against the Observer.

The jury took two days to reach a verdict, which was in Bernstein's favour.

On October 7, Bernstein was awarded £35,000 libel damages by the High Court yesterday in a case which he had won against the Observer.

Bernstein, whose London office is in St. James's, was awarded damages against the Observer, which was represented by Mr. John Davis, author of the article.

Mr. Davis, author of the article, was ordered to pay the costs of the eight-day hearing. The award was a record for a libel action.

aims to help red wives

Ms convicted of violent behaviour would leave the matrimonial home, a parliamentary amendment introduced by Mr. Jack Bristow, Labour MP for Stoke Newington, is to be published.

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murder charge

Chapple, aged 38, a worker, of Glen Parva, Leicestershire, was charged with the murder of a woman, who was found dead in a car in the town of Glen Parva, Leicestershire, on March 10.

age study

Home Office has set up a study to study how services can be better. It is expected to be a conclusive document in a year.

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Ombudsman proposed for children

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

A Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) should be created to safeguard children's interests and to settle disputes between children and their parents, a report by Justice, the all-party lawyers' body, proposes.

The report, published yesterday, makes recommendations to ensure that the child's welfare remains first and paramount, whatever the issue involved. The policy to be pursued should be one that would result in the least psychological harm to the child.

The Ombudsman would be a "family court" which would act on behalf of the child in custody suits between the parents. He would have the duty of instructing lawyers to represent the child's interests in a court, or other agencies, such as the local authority, involved.

Justice emphasizes that separate representation for the child is essential. When the child's welfare is in the balance,

there is no room for incompetence, it says. In any custody suit, whether parents are battling against each other or against the state, the interests of the child cannot be presumed to coincide with those of either disputant.

"Because a child has direct personal interest in the proceedings, and his rights may be adversely affected by it, he needs the help of a lawyer (instructed by a competent spokesman) whose only goal is adequate representation of his interests." Separate legal representation should be given to a child not only in custody cases but also in any other proceedings affecting his welfare.

The report, which was prepared by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Gerald Godfrey, QC, emphasizes the concept of parental duties rather than parental rights. It proposes a "visiting code" to be given at the end of a case to estranged, separated or divorced parents, so that their children can have the benefit of both parents' affection and love.

New centre tackles failures of old borstal system

From Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
Leicester

Probation officers were locked in the cells recently at Glen Parva borstal, Leicestershire, wearing training uniforms, as part of an experiment that seeks to remedy weaknesses in the penal system.

The officers were on a joint course with prison officers at Glen Parva, Britain's largest establishment for young offenders, which was opened yesterday by Mr. Jenkins, the Home Secretary.

The idea was to give probation officers a taste of what life is like for a trainee: they were treated as trainees for two days and nights.

The experience was less disturbing than it might have been in some places. For instance, Glen Parva is one of the first penal establishments with lavatories in the cells.

The course sets out to create greater cooperation between probation and prison officers, between whom there is often suspicion.

Yet surveys cited at Leicester have shown that more than three-fifths of prison officers regard themselves as more like probation officers than like policemen.

To break down the artificial barrier between them, probation officers will discuss cases inside Glen Parva, and prison officers will write reports as probation officers do.

Glen Parva, which was operating with 175 trainees before its official opening, offers a refreshing contrast to the pessimism that surrounds many borstals. Four out of five boys aged 16 discharged from borstals in 1970 were convicted again within two years; most of them within nine months. Half were sent back to borstal.

No menace to freedom of editors, NUJ chief says

Nowhere had the National Union of Journalists set out to interfere with an editor's freedom to edit, the union's president said at a conference yesterday.

"What it does try to do, however, is all it can to prevent an editor, or anyone else, from doing the work of the members who are driven to strike," Mr. Peabody spoke of "ballyhoo" about the Bill to give unions the right to a closed shop, and editors have attacked it as a threat to press freedom.

Mr. Peabody, referring to the wage campaign when some members blacklisted non-NUJ articles, said: "Fair-minded members accept that the blind exclusion of all non-journalistic contributions could mean the intellectual suicide of a high grade paper. This was never intended, as far as I am aware."

Oyster farms produce abundant harvest

From Ronald Faux
Ardunne, Argyll

The seabed of Loch Melfort in Argyll will not yield its first great harvest of 500,000 farmed oysters until next year, when the fish-rich waters, divers are to collect the batches of marketable oysters bound for tables in Helsinki and possibly to buyers in France, Belgium, West Germany and Russia.

By next year the group of sea-farmers expect to have 1,250,000 Pacific oysters, which they have reared from pinhead size, ready for the market. A company, Western Aquaculture, is one of the pioneering organizations the Government has helped to promote through the Highlands and Islands Development Board. While the divers tend the seabed shells of oysters, another firm, Gateway West, also gov-

ernment-assisted, adds 250 tons of "factory" bred rainbow trout production to help in trout farming as a fish-farming area.

Mr. Niall Ian McLean, leader of the local tourist organization, said: "It has always been superb. The Gulf Stream spreads around the coast and brings in just about every kind of fish at one time or another. Children here grow sickened with salmon and lobster. The whole county abounds in protein."

Argyll is attempting to put the home-grown protein on a much larger scale. Deep-freeze lorries of increasing size make the winding journey to the small fishing ports along the coast to pick up the oysters caught from some boats. Mr. Jim Malloys, sales

BBC 'should devolve to serve regional interests'

Broadcasting in the North-west lacks adequate buildings, equipment, staff, resources and finance, the BBC's North-west Regional Advisory Council says in its submission to the Anson committee on the future of broadcasting. It lays the blame on mistakes made during the past 50 years.

The council, chaired by Professor Graham Ashworth, of Salford University, had 17 members including housewives, journalists and doctors. "The report favours devolution by the BBC. It says that decision-making is largely taken by a few people in London and reflects a metropolitan attitude that bears little relation to the richness and variety outside the South-east."

The council says that "too often it seems as though criticism and comment, though couched in constructive terms and intended to result in improvement, are received by the BBC as carping and hyper-critical."

It recommends that the three network production centres for the BBC in Britain should be scrapped and their staff and facilities redeployed to serve regional broadcasting.

more of the Advisory Committee on the Penal System's ideas on young offenders, once they are accepted.

The 31-acre site will include the secure training borstal for 300 young offenders, a remand and assessment centre for 300 young men awaiting trial, and a hospital providing medical and psychiatric care for 80 patients, including some from other local establishments.

There were hopes among staff that Glen Parva would not be called a borstal at all since it provides a chance for a new start in treating young offenders, building on past mistakes. However, until Parliament agrees to the Advisory Council's ideas "borstal" it will remain. Yet perhaps it contains the seeds that will help to overcome the system's previous failures.

slashing the boys at Glen Parva have been in borstal before.



Race and intelligence— the issue at stalemate?

Just how important are genetic factors in determining differences in intelligence between one race and another?

In the first issue of *New Behaviour*, Professor Jack Tizard, president of the British Psychological Society, challenges Jensen's well-known racial theory of intelligence. He argues that it rests on a faulty interpretation of the evidence which can only produce an indeterminate answer. Is this most hotly debated topic in psychology therefore reduced to stalemate?

But what is *New Behaviour*? The first serious weekly to be devoted to the psychological sciences and the essential link between those researching into human behaviour and those applying the benefits of that research to everyday life.

This unique magazine deals with the work behavioural scientists are doing in all fields of human activity as it affects you at home, at work and at leisure. As parent or teacher, manager or wage earner, student or professional or simply as an individual, you will find *New Behaviour* offering you a refreshing insight into yourself and the people around you.

Look at the contents of this issue: Whatever turns you on

Psychologists know less

First issue out today

NEW behaviour 20p every Thursday the weekly magazine for the psychological sciences

about sexual attraction among human beings than among fish and insects! New research findings shed more light on the issue.

The Manager in his job Rosemary Stewart shows how different jobs make different behavioural demands on the managers doing them.

Places for living "Common-sense" notions about design and planning—whether for cities or buildings—are not always supported by behavioural research. *New Behaviour* examines some popular assumptions about our physical environment.

How did I come to do that? Absent-mindedness can raise

a laugh or crash a passenger jet. James Reason discusses these momentary lapses and suggests some practical implications.

Faces The two sides of your face are not identical. A psychologist shows how important this can be.

In addition to stimulating articles such as these, *New Behaviour* will regularly carry a digest of international research in psychology and psychiatry—book, television and film reviews—commentaries on current aspects of human behaviour.

Here at last is an intelligent weekly that invites you to learn more about your fellow men and women... and yourself.



Ratepayers in court battle with council

By Arthur Osman

The National Association of Ratepayers' Action Groups, which emerged as a potent force from last year's country-wide anger about increased rate levels, has chosen the ground for its first large concerted legal protest.

It has served on 58 local authorities a request on behalf of ratepayers that councils should institute local independent inquiries into spending and staffing levels. If they fail to do that, and those who have responded so far have refused to do so, the notice says that members of action groups, estimated at about a million, will be advised to pay no more than 40 per cent of the 1973-74 rate level.

Furthermore, they would consider themselves to be "aggrieved" persons under chapter nine, part one, of the General Rate Act, 1967, and would appeal accordingly to the Crown Court. The section of the Act specifically allows right of appeal to any person who is aggrieved by any neglect, act or thing done or not done "by the local rating authority."

The first such appeal has been lodged at Westminster Crown Court by Mr Michael Moseley, a businessman of Osterley, Middlesex, who is rated by Hounslow Borough Council, where there is a 50.08 per cent increase. He is a leading member of the local Ratepayers' Action Group with an estimated 7,000 membership. While his appeal is waiting to be heard, at a date yet to be fixed, all members of every ratepayers' group in the country, counsel has advised, can withhold any increase in their rates.

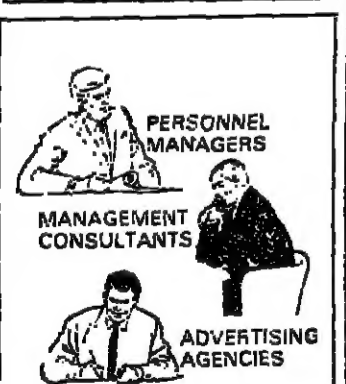
Mr Moseley said yesterday that his ratepayers' group had put a seven-point plan to Hounslow Council and had called for an independent inquiry into local spending, but had been refused. The costs of the appeal, which might run to between £3,000 and £4,000, would be borne by the local group, whose membership is expected to rise.

Mr John Wilks, a leading member of the national association's executive said yesterday: "We have heard that the Government is trying to introduce legislation to counter this particular section of the General Rate Act. If this is so, we in our turn have a number of actions to hand and several other strategies to employ."

Mrs Betty Armstrong, of Formby, Merseyside, another member of the executive, described the strategies as having "a considerable but legal sting in the tail". The national association has spent a year assembling its organization and developing its muscles to a point where it is confident that it can challenge national and local authorities on the whole states issue.

The ratepayers' group at Bolton, Greater Manchester, formulated the pilot strategy and had intended to fight the first appeal action, but its local council, after receiving the notice of intent, was prevailed upon to reduce its rates from a proposed increase of 23 per cent to only 6 per cent.

In addition to the "Bolton strategy" a second line of protest is being developed with groups giving warning that they intend to challenge cases of alleged excesses in spending or staffing with the district auditor.



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EEC REFERENDUM

TUC opposition to membership formally recorded but unions have freedom to disagree

By Alan Hamilton

Labour Staff

The TUC has formally recorded its opposition to Britain's continued membership of the EEC in a nine-page statement being sent today to all member unions. The statement, approved by the TUC General Council yesterday, will be backed by an intensive public campaign between now and referendum day.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary, introducing the document, said that not everyone in the union movement would agree with the TUC's attitude, and individual unions would be free to express their opinions. A minority of TUC unions remain in favour of membership.

On the other hand, Mr Murray admitted that some unions have been thought of as the tone of the TUC document was too measured, and that it was too moderate in its condemnation of the EEC.

The TUC concludes that the referendum terms do not achieve enough.

No political dogma is involved in this conclusion and it has to be recognized that within the Labour government there will be a wide range of views. The TUC and the Labour Party have recognized that this must be so, and they seek only to ensure that discussion prior to the referendum in June should be free, frank and full. Important differences there may be, but not divisions.

It says this is a period when every effort is needed to secure the full benefits of policies and

measures undertaken by a government of the people to regenerate our industry and our economy, to bring it within the control of our people, and through that to provide significant advances in our well being and our society.

Union opposition to the EEC has crystallized around four issues, the TUC adds: the structure and administration of the common agricultural policy; the effects the EEC can have on attempts to achieve more rapid industrial and social progress in Britain; the imperfections of the EEC in the relevant areas of its operation; and the sovereignty of the British Parliament, with its consequent freedom of British industry and institutions.

The TUC adds that some of the original terms accepted by the Conservative Government have been rejected by renegotiation. The British contribution to the EEC budget has been reduced, the EEC treaties are less rigid than was at first thought, and there is some scope for individual governments to operate their own policies of regional and industrial development.

These are all gains when they are measured against the basic principle of the Common Market that freedom of competition, or alternatively of central regulation, should prevail.

The question is whether such gains can for this country outweigh the very serious impact which that principle, even as modified, has had and may in the future have on the interests of Britain.

The TUC is not convinced that the EEC structure, initially designed for countries in a different situation from the United Kingdom, has been sufficiently adapted to the pressing need for its steps forward in British industry and its productivity. Nor is it convinced that enough sovereignty will remain to Britain to allow the will of its people to prevail in their own affairs.

British trade unionists have not set their faces against forward-looking developments in Europe, the statement says. The TUC has been to the fore in setting up a representative body of almost all West European trade unionists, regardless of divisions which only a few years ago were regarded as permanent and inevitable.

Nor does the TUC reject political and economic cooperation for an end which, and by means which, the EEC would find acceptable and welcome. Such issues are not at stake in the present debate. What is at stake is whether the character of the Common Market is such that the British people would want their country to belong to it, and whether the Government have succeeded in so altering the specific and the implied terms of membership that they are fair and beneficial to Britain.

In addition to the 25,000 copies of the statement being printed for distribution to the TUC's own newspaper, Labour, next week, in which its objections will be set out.

Tory leader finds poll a strange paradox

By George Clark

Political Correspondent

Calling attention to the strange paradox that the Labour Government was claiming to be the defender of parliamentary sovereignty yet was holding a referendum that denied Parliament the sovereignty it sought to preserve, Mrs Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party, said yesterday: "Lewis Carroll, thou shouldst be living at this hour. Wonderland has nothing on Wilson-land."

She thought that at a time when the nation needed the maximum stability the referendum was liable to create the maximum uncertainty. It was talking place when the Budget strategy was likely to be undermined by the provision in the social contract that those who negotiated on wages could renege on their side of the bargain. Living however it occurred that there was a 20 per cent rate of inflation, a rate of borrowing that was higher than anyone expected, and when we were doing a good deal less well than our competitors.

"I can only say that when I look at it in that light I find the prospects very worrying indeed," she said.

As a Conservative, she looked with some dispassionate amusement on a spectacle in which a device, the referendum, had been used to unite her opponents and yet had proved to be the means of dividing them and showing clearly their policy differences. There was colossal uncertainty about what would happen. It would be very unusual for us to try to predict the result because we have no means of judging," she told journalists and MPs at a Parliamentary Press Gallery luncheon.

The only hopeful thing is that on the whole the people, when they have to decide, are more conservative with a small "c" than the government in power. They tend to show that people go for the status quo. It might be that that was very true in the case of discussing referendums and said that people are more conservative than the government.

Both financially and as far as the referendum was concerned, the nation was entering a difficult and dangerous time. Indeed you might say that the referendum was the only hope of the nation. It was a gamble, a gamble, a gamble, and we should know this in our heart of hearts, and therefore a heavy responsibility rests upon you of the press to make the nation face the choice before the people.

Mrs Thatcher said it would be ironic, and in a way constitutionally wrong, if after there had been a big majority in the Commons for staying in the EEC, the renegotiated terms there was an adverse majority on a low poll in the referendum. "I do not think that would add to the distinction of the House; it would tend to detract from it," she said. "We are in a unique position. We are the only country which I use when asked about this is to say that if we had had a referendum in 1986 about whether we should remain in the EEC, the referendum would have said 'No'. We would then have been ready for the war when it came."

It was the statesman's job and his duty to look forward and estimate the consequences of a particular action. She did not accept that Conservatives should have nothing to do with the referendum. "We are bound to work for a really positive 'Yes' vote."

Shortage of Tory backers worries Mr Frere-Smith

By Roger Berthoud

"Obviously I should like far more Conservatives. The reality is that I have got eight Conservative MPs ready to campaign for us—and no Liberal MPs," said Mr Christopher Frere-Smith, chairman of the executive committee of the Get Britain Out organization, which is campaigning for a referendum on the EEC in the next general election.

In the basement under the modest office in Upper Berkeley Street, London, where he practises as a solicitor, shirt-sleeved supporters toiled in circumstances all too eloquent of the movement's relative poverty.

It is potentially distressing for Mr Frere-Smith, a free-trading Liberal by political inclination, to be largely dependent for campaigning speakers on 150 odd Labour MPs many of them left-wingers, and on trade union leaders. "There is no doubt that greater terror is struck into Conservative hearts by trade unionists and the left than by anything else," he admits. "This is being played on to advantage by the other side. I think there is a smear campaign."

What hope is there of capturing at least part of the vote? Diffidently, and quoting a view of a Labour EEC supporter, Mr Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Frere-Smith proffers Mr Enoch Powell, at present Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South.

Mr Powell, he claims, will not be making a large number of speeches, hoping rather to make his impact with a few. But one or two other Ulster Unionist MPs, including Mr James Maloney, are also expected to speak.

Those managing the Get Britain Out campaign will be trying to persuade their 300 odd speakers to moderate their views on subjects that divide them and stick to the ones that unite them. Mr Frere-Smith for one is far from rejecting some form of cooperation with continental Europe, and does not believe that Britain's principal difficulties will be solved either by staying in or coming out.



Mr Frere-Smith: Not a very cheerful outlook.

neaux (Astrim, South) will be helping Get Britain Out to maintain a balance with Labour speakers on this side of the Irish Sea, possibly with boomerang effect.

Mr Frere-Smith is not unduly perturbed to find most of the small British Communist Party and all of the National Front campaigning for the same cause. "As far as I am concerned, we are dissociating ourselves entirely from the National Front," he says. "We see the diversity of the elements in the anti-EEC front not as an embarrassment but as evidence of its width of appeal."

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Three reasons for Mr Heffer's stand

By Our Political Staff

Mr Eric Heffer, who was dismissed as Minister of State for Industry because he ignored the Prime Minister's ministerial guidelines on Europe, last night gave three reasons for his opposition to Britain's continued membership.

He told a meeting at Southampton that the EEC made it difficult for the country to control the sort of changes they wanted in our society. It was an obstacle to a democratic socialist Britain. That was why he accepted that the sovereignty argument was important.

The second reason was that decisions affecting British people were increasingly being made by unelected, faceless bureaucrats in the European Commission whose powers were increased, not diminished, by certain leading politicians had suggested.

Third, instead of the British solving their difficulties by their own efforts, a false millennium was being pictured, the belief that the EEC would hinder our industrial and economic development and not improve it.

Weapon of fear? Pro-Europeans are using fear as a weapon to keep Britain in the EEC, Mr William Wolfe, chairman of the Scottish National Party, said last night (the Press Association reports).

The EEC was highly bureaucratic, centralist and undemocratic, he told an SNP meeting at Colindale, North London. It limited the freedom of the people of Scotland to plan and develop their own resources.

The Treaty of Rome was conceived in fear. It was conceived at the end of World War Two in the fear that there might be a World War Three, resulting from conflict between France and Germany.

The pro-Market forces are still using fear as a weapon to keep Britain in the EEC, Mr Wolfe said. "We are in a unique position. We are the only country which I use when asked about this is to say that if we had had a referendum in 1986 about whether we should remain in the EEC, the referendum would have said 'No'. We would then have been ready for the war when it came."

It was the statesman's job and his duty to look forward and estimate the consequences of a particular action. She did not accept that Conservatives should have nothing to do with the referendum. "We are bound to work for a really positive 'Yes' vote."

By contrast, Britain has to support a population of more than 55 million—much the same as France, West Germany and Italy but more than twice the combined population of Norway, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland.

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WEST EUROPE

Lisbon Socialists say they are victims of smear campaign

From Nicholas Ashford

Lisbon, April 23

Portugal's three-week election campaign drew to a noisy conclusion today amid allegations of a smear campaign against the Socialist Party and more outbreaks of violence in the north.

The campaign was due to finish at midnight tonight, allowing Portugal's six million voters 24 hours of "sober reflection" before casting their ballots in Friday's election for a constituent assembly. The final event of the campaign was a huge rally planned by the Communist Party in Lisbon tonight.

The rally, which was expected to be attended by up to 100,000 people, was designed to counter a similar demonstration of popular support organized by the Socialist Party last Sunday.

The centre-left Popular Democratic Party (PPD) made its final appearance in the capital at a noisy meeting last night. About 20,000 supporters packed Lisbon's sports pavilion to hear Dr Francisco Balsemão, one of the party's leaders and editor of the independent newspaper, *Expresso*, predict a PPD victory at the polls.

The allegation of a smear campaign against the Socialists was made by the party's leader Dr Mario Soares, in a party political broadcast. Although he did not say so directly, he was understood to be referring to yesterday's report on the attempted coup of March 11.

The report blamed certain "responsible political leaders" for creating an alarmist campaign which helped to prepare conditions for the coup attempt.

Members of the editorial board of *Expresso*, which was named in the report, today held a press conference to reject the findings of the commission investigating the attempted coup. Dr Balsemão gave a warning of a campaign of attacks against the paper.

"It was a critical hour for *Expresso*," he said. "The climate being built up around us could restrict the paper's freedom of comment. In the north of Portugal it was the turn of the conservative Centre Democratic Social Party (CDS) to go onto the offensive. Late last night party supporters, wielding knives, sticks and iron bars, broke up a Communist Party meeting in Trófa, near Oporto."

About ten people were injured. The meeting was being addressed by Senhor Adelino Gonçalves, a former Minister of Labour and a leader of the powerful bankworkers' union. Among the Communist Party candidates standing in Oporto.

Earlier this week a CDS meeting was broken up by left-wing demonstrators in Guimarães, north of Oporto. Other CDS meetings have also come under attack, as have ones being held by the Communist Party.

Meanwhile, a forecast that "non-progressive political parties" will fade away during the three to five-year transitional period when the armed forces will remain in power was made today by a leading member of the Armed Forces Movement, Commander Ramiro Correia, who is in charge of the "cultural dynamization" campaign which is designed to politicize villagers in rural areas.

He said that these parties "would eventually be reduced to their leaders". He did not identify which parties he was referring to, but it is certain that they would include the CDS.

He said these parties "would no longer be required once the people had been 'enlightened'". The commander added that Friday's elections were a fundamental part of the democratic process taking place in Portugal and he urged people not to abstain. However, to cast a blank vote was to "participate actively in the election," he said.

Mr Henry Cotton, the former British golf champion who is golf manager at the Penha hotel in the Algarve, has become the latest foreigner to fall foul of the workers' campaign which has sprung up all over Portugal. He said today that he had been locked out of his golf shop and office by the workers' committee who had accused him of being a capitalist.

Rio de Janeiro, April 23.—The former Portuguese President, General Antonio de Spínola, today called the report on the abortive coup "a model of falsehood."

"The old techniques used by communist parties to spread the report of the expert of falsehood to strain their objectives is already amply known by international public opinion and the present report is perfectly placed in this framework of action," he told the morning newspaper *O Globo*.

Mr Spínola is the leader of the Labour Party's parliamentary group and was considered to be the candidate of the moderates. The election of Mr Steen, aged 41, to the party's top post was seen as a victory for the leftist faction in the party.

A quiet former auditor from rural eastern Norway, Mr Nordli is a favourite among Labour voters but he became a candidate for the chairmanship, should take over as Prime Minister when Mr Bratteli, aged 65, resigns, probably after the general elections in 1977.

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£1,550m plan to aid French economy

Paris, April 23.—President Giscard d'Estaing said today that the French Government would spend £1,550m in an effort to boost the economy out of doldrums and combat a

plummet. In a televised address said that the programme would boost the country's production capacity and stimulate its competitiveness on foreign markets but should not have inflationary effects.

The six-point programme was approved at a Cabinet meeting at the Elysée today, appeared designed to take edge off the warnings of leading Opposition and trade unionists that the economic slump and spreading unemployment would produce a social labour unrest.

M Giscard d'Estaing said that the programme would include the following measures: a loan of 5,000m francs to be granted by state-owned credit houses to finance the purchase of capital goods; new export credit facilities would be provided.

There would be a 10 per cent reduction of the tax on profits of companies which had purchased equipment bought after May 1974. Special credits totalling 24 francs would be provided for the industrialization of poverty-stricken areas in western and central France.

A 4,200m franc investment programme would modernize the telephone system.—UPI.

Airport protest over dismissals. Paris, April 23.—About 100 Air Canada employees took over a DC-8 airliner at Boissy airport today in protest against management plans to cut staff.

The airline said it would abandon their strike until negotiations over the dismissals were successful. About 47 Air Canada and 51 British Airways workers are to be dismissed.—Reuters.

£83,000 robbery. Zurich, April 23.—The Zurich police have called on a helicopter to search for bandits who stole nearly 500,000 Swiss francs (about £83,000) in cash travellers' cheques and two bags of gold each weighing 216 30.

Lawyer barred from German anarchist's trial

Stuttgart, April 23.—Three judges today barred Dr Klaus Croissant, a left-wing lawyer, from defending the alleged leaders of the Baader-Meinhof group of urban guerrillas.

The court found that Dr Croissant had supported the group actively and could not therefore represent Ulfike Meinhof, Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe.

The two men and two women are charged with murder, attempted murder, armed robbery, bombings and other offences. Their trial opens on May 21 in a specially built courthouse.—Reuters.

Norwegian Labour Party elects a new leader

Oslo, April 23.—Norway's ruling Labour Party today ended a four-day congress by unanimously electing Mr Reulf Steen, the vice-chairman, to succeed Mr Trygve Bratteli, the Prime Minister, as party leader.

But the election committee said Mr Steen was not a candidate for the chairmanship, should take over as Prime Minister when Mr Bratteli, aged 65, resigns, probably after the general elections in 1977.

Mr Nordli is the leader of the Labour Party's parliamentary group and was considered to be the candidate of the moderates. The election of Mr Steen, aged 41, to the party's top post was seen as a victory for the leftist faction in the party.

Concern in France about transit centre for aliens

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, April 23

The French Ministry of the Interior denied last night that a "

OVERSEAS

Dr Kaunda foresees delay in black rule for Rhodesia

From Frederick Cleary Salisbury, April 23

President Kaunda of Zambia does not expect to see majority rule in Rhodesia in the immediate future, according to a document being circulated in Salisbury.

The document is a report made by two white Rhodesian farmers after recent tour of Zambia during which they had a long interview with the Zambian leader. According to their report, which was meant for limited consumption but has now found its way into the hands of journalists and others, President Kaunda told the farmers, Mr Sandy Ficks and Mr John Strong, that what was more important to him was a commitment to majority rule by the Rhodesians and this commitment should be made now.

The President said that a sudden move to majority rule could lead to a breakdown in the country's economy and would help no one. He agreed that one could not measure the time in years and months, but that he had only achieved one man, one vote in the 1973 elections. Before this they had a qualified franchise and it had taken them nearly 10 years to move to complete majority rule.

In Rhodesia, it might take longer. The Rhodesian economy was more complicated and the racial problem more difficult than in Zambia.

The report says President Kaunda was definitely thinking in terms of a commonwealth in Rhodesia with a qualified franchise. It might well be a considerable time before the commitment to majority rule and its actual establishment, but after the commitment this would be a realistic goal.

The President said there was not much time left in Rhodesia for a decision to be taken.

According to the report the two Rhodesians met the Zambian leader on April 7. They had gone to Zambia at the invitation of Mr Ronald Landless, past president of the Commercial Farmers' Bureau of Zambia. With the blessing of the Zambian Government the two men made a comprehensive tour of the country and were much impressed. At the end of the tour they were suddenly told that a meeting had been arranged with President Kaunda. Obviously somewhat startled they telephoned the Secretary for Foreign Affairs in Salisbury, Mr Stanley O'Donnell asking for advice. He told them to "project an image of reasonableness and of a sincere wish to achieve a settlement."

Mr Ficks and Mr Strong saw Mr Kaunda with other leading Zambian officials, and Mr John Roberts, former leader of the white opposition in the Zambian parliament. Mr Strong told Dr Kaunda that they had found the atmosphere in Zambia very easy, were impressed by the relaxed relationship between the races and the development in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors.

Zambians, however, did not realize the fund of goodwill that existed between the races in Rhodesia and they gave

examples of how blacks and whites cooperated in their particular world of agriculture.

Mr Ficks told the Zambian leader that it was evident to any intelligent man in Rhodesia that majority rule was inevitable and since the commitment could remove the main source of racial friction it must be considered desirable. If it was inevitable and desirable it was logical to start working toward it now. Mr Ficks said it was vital not to measure the time in such a move in terms of years.

Both men were conservative, said Mr Ficks, but their views probably represented the views of 70 per cent of their fellow white farmers. The vast bulk of obdurate and reactionary thinking in Rhodesia was among the artisans, he said.

President Kaunda began his reply by saying "I never thought I would live to see the day when I would hear white Rhodesians talk like this. It is the first time I have heard these views expressed so sincerely and I believe you."

The President revealed that he had told Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, that he was prepared to underwrite a bill of rights guaranteeing the Europeans continued ownership of their property. He also said that he had taken the civil servants, who made no allowed to commit themselves, he had met no white Rhodesians since 1965.

He had met Mr Sir Roy Welensky but the report said he did not take his meetings with the former federal prime minister seriously.

After lunch the President said that it was impossible to put a time limit on the move to majority rule in Rhodesia. It had taken Zambia a long time, but as Rhodesia was a more complicated country with a more sophisticated economy it might take even longer.

The President also expressed reservations about the Kenyan Government, saying there was corruption.

This remarkable document was issued to journalists on Monday by Dr Edson Sirhole, the Minister of Information and Publicity, Secretary of the African National Council. Journalists agreed not to file stories immediately because of the delicate situation in the Southern African détente exercise.

The next day the Rhodesian Government was informed and Mr Edward Sutton-Page, the deputy minister in the Prime Minister's office, called journalists to his office and asked them to withhold publication as he had seen the document. Mr Smith and Bishop Muvumba, leader of the African National Council, said publication would not be welcome "in the light of the delicate state of affairs." The bishop, himself, had no knowledge of the document.

Journalists agreed to withhold publication until the Zambian Government had had time to comment. By this afternoon there had been no comment from Lusaka and the Salisbury press made no official comment.

Soviet rebel ill after mind drug 'treatment'

By Peter Reddaway

Mr Leonid Plyuschch, the imprisoned Ukrainian mathematician and dissident, is severely mentally ill as a result of drugs administered to him in the prison psychiatric hospital at Dnepropetrovsk. This is reported by his wife Tatiana, who saw him there recently.

In an appeal written for International Plyuschch Day, which has just reached the West, she describes how her husband was arrested in early 1972 for his activities as a rule breaker and interned. Her friends and she testified repeatedly to his normality, but this, she now writes, was "a foolish enterprise: after all, those who were punishing him knew, no less than I, that he was mentally healthy." But, she continues, "Now I say yes, he is ill. Terribly ill, and he needs to be saved from worse than illness: from death."

International Plyuschch Day, yesterday, was designated by the International Committee of Mathematicians in Defence of Leonid Plyuschch, a group supported by 1,000 of the world's leading mathematicians.

Mrs Plyuschch was told by the Dnepropetrovsk hospital administration that a psychiatric commission under a Dr Biokhina had recently examined her husband and given a worsening diagnosis. Whereas he had previously been suffering from "sluggish schizophrenia" and "reformable delusions" now it was "schizophrenia of the paranoid type". On April 9, Mrs Plyuschch managed to see Dr Andrei Sneshevsky, the prominent Moscow psychiatrist who had made the earlier diagnosis.

She told him what the Dnepropetrovsk doctors had told her: that they were treating Dr Plyuschch according to Dr Sneshevsky's diagnosis and according to his prescribed course of treatment. Dr Sneshevsky promised to contact Dr Georgy Morozov, director of the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry, and ask him to send a subordinate to Dnepropetrovsk to check the new diagnosis.

In her appeal Mrs Plyuschch says she is "boundlessly grateful to all who have concerned themselves with Leonid's fate by writing and phoning him, and by publishing his books of letters. She concludes: "Let me be given back my husband, ill as he has been made him, and let us then be allowed to leave this country."

Numerous appeals for Mr Plyuschch have been sent by dissidents in Moscow, a recent one carrying about 40 signatures. The latest, from Professor Igor Shafarevich of Moscow University, has just reached the West, intended for Plyuschch Day. The most "appealing" aspect of the Plyuschch case, in his opinion, is Mr Plyuschch's "treatment" with all kinds of chemical substances which have a pernicious effect on his psyche. Those who had similar experiences assert that words fail to convey the horror of them.

From the time of the Emswiler onwards, however, Hans Christian Andersen began to become rather a tedious subject. His preoccupation with himself (surely the fact that enabled him to overcome the almost insurmountable social and educational barriers of provincial, nineteenth-century Denmark) was worrying about his health, or his critics, or time and again about not being able to converse with the son of his patron (one of his closest friends) in the intimate style of "D". The man who wrote rare and truly untranslatable gifts of perception, imagination, irony keeps coming before the reader as a gangling, slightly disconcerted, aging adolescent, and one is hard put to it not to sympathize with the cruel, satirical comment of Charles Dickens's daughter: "He was a bony bore and stayed on and on."

There is not much that Professor Bredsdorff, who is concerned about an exact and faithful record, can do for the older Andersen. His accounts of the journeying of his Andersen made often with truculent companions impress upon us the man's stamina and his gift for meeting those of "rank and quality". His delicate recitals of meetings, both in words of Andersen and of those he encountered help to emphasize what a difficult person he is to understand. And his chapters on Andersen's last years, spent in India, have a profound loneliness, have a profound loneliness, brings the "fairy tale" to fitting, though scarcely happy, conclusion.

But for the reader outside Denmark, who seeks here some of the chemistry that produced the Emswiler, the biography may only disappoint. Professor Bredsdorff tells a little of their publication, and offers a detailed analysis of their style and content. He does not go far towards explaining the idiosyncratic force behind the stories. The precisely detailed man remains a shadow of the storyteller.

Life is a fairy tale

Hans Christian Andersen

By Elias Bredsdorff

The story of his life and work 1805-75

Andersen biography has been a matter of considerable fascination—not least to Andersen himself. He wrote at least three accounts of his own life, to say nothing of the biographical references in many of the tales and the regular commentaries incorporated in his letters; and, after his death, lives followed in profusion. Taking their cue from "The Ugly Duckling" these have often presented a romantic, oversimplified account of a man of "unparalleled contradictions", and it is the prime strength of this new biography that it is rooted in documentary evidence.

As a Dane, Professor Bredsdorff is comfortably at home among the massive runs of correspondence, diaries and contemporary observations that have been brought to light during the past 30 years; and as an Andersen scholar of long standing (it was he who organized the famous Andersen exhibition at the National Book League in 1955) he has had time to penetrate to the manifold peculiarities of his subject.

No amount of careful deployment of information, conscientious weighing of opinion, can, however, conceal the tiresome fact that, in dramatic terms, Andersen's biography loses much of its impact round about the end of Act Two. In his earlier stages it does everything to justify his own title for it. "The Fairy Tale of My Life"—the unpossessing son of a village cobbler seeks out an education (and how!) through public, private and royal bounty; asserts his own desire to be a writer against those who would have him be a civil clerk; servant; and discovers almost by accident a story-telling gift that (despite execrable translations) make him one of the most renowned authors in the world.

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Batty obscurity

The Admirable Urquhart

Selected writings edited and introduced by Richard Boston

What qualities go to make a great literary translator? Besides a necessary degree of bilingual ease, one might reasonably suppose that imaginative sympathy with the foreign author, and a self-effacing submission to his text amounting to something like quiet schizophrenia, were the two prime requisites. If so, then the strange career of Sir Thomas Urquhart, the seventeenth-century Scots dandy, royalist, and translator of the monstrous Rabelais, will give you cause for second thoughts.

Urquhart was probably bilingual and certainly mad; but no less self-effacing a personage can possibly be conceived than this gentleman from Cromarty who traced and published his genealogical tree in 152 named descendants between Adam and himself. Yet his Rabelais is one of the half-dozen classic prose translations in our literature. It is a work that has magically attained, and retained, a definitive place in the history of English prose, in every way equivalent to Maitre François's seminal position (a fair term) in French. It was first published in 1653 (Books I & II), roughly 120 years after Rabelais's own. It comes at the end of that golden summer of Elizabethan and Jacobean translation, which includes North's Plutarch (used by Shakespeare for plotting his Roman dialogues), Florio's Montaigne, and the King James Bible, none of which will ever be replaced.

Urquhart's truly organic rendition of Rabelais is soberly based on Randle Cotgrave's "Dictionnaire" (1611), and is surprisingly accurate and reliable in point of lexical detail and interpretation of this knurled of texts. Yet it has also captured all the wild exuberance, the manic pedanticism, the monkish winds, the peasant humanism and the dazzling polemic speed of the French Urquhart, for all his elegant Gaelic princess, in every sense as Rabelaisian as Rabelais.

This is vividly illustrated in the brief extracts supplied by Richard Boston in his new selection of Urquhart's work, both original and translated.

In his genial Introduction, Boston dwells on the matter in some detail. With a beer-columnist's instinct, he turns to the boisterous history in praise of the infant Gargantua's that Urquhart achieves, "la petite andoille verte" (Book I, xi), first giving the French, then the trim modern version by J. M. Cohen (Penguin, 1955), and finally Urquhart's avalanche of contemporary slang for the "lusty live sausage".

Amplification and linguistic virtuosity are in fact the keys to Urquhart's version. His draws upon the euphuistic fireworks and compulsive neologisms of the earlier generation of Greene and Thomas Lodge. Writing from his stone tower in distant Cromarty, his anachronisms—part bookish, part Scottish—confront Rabelais directly across three generations.

Some puzzling gaps

Richard Holmes

Five years of Fontana Modern Masters—all you ever need to know about Les Strauss, Popper, McLuhan, Fannon, and Reich but was afraid to admit your ignorance. It is a considerable achievement to have produced 30 volumes in five years and the occasion is marked with the publication of *Elit* by Stephen Spender (80p) or Marx, by David McLellan (50p).

The emphasis of the series seems to have shifted slightly over the years. Some of the early titles, now appear to have been rather the momentary rather than masters. Andre Sinclair's reverential *Guevara* for example, ends by saying "History will probably see Guevara as the Garibaldi of his age, the most admired revolutionary of his time" which is hard on revolutionaries, some of whose achievements, such as Chairman Mao, Had Guevara not been the most romantic handsome revolutionaries of his age, his image might have faded somewhat sooner.

Marx, in a short, we written (and unlike some of the Master series, not totally intelligible survey) David McLellan, joins the other patriarch of the twentieth century, Freud (Richard Wolheim) who is balanced by Jung (Anthony Storr), and to younger colleagues, Raskin (Charles Rycroft) and Lull (Edgar Z. Friedenberg).

On the whole the emphasis is on the written word, with writers and thinkers predominating. Yeats, Joyce, Kafka, Orwell, Lawrence, Proust, Camus and Mailer are followed by Russell, Nietzsche, Gandhi, Popper, Lenin, Lukacs, Chomsky and Wittgenstein.

There are, however, some very puzzling gaps in the five year development in what is hoped will eventually be "an encyclopedia". Le Corbusier alone represents all the visual arts. Schoenberg has been forgotten for years, but there are no musicians, no dramatists, apart from Beckett (no Ibsen, Shaw or Brecht) no great stage director or innovator, who changed the way we looked at the theatrical arts, such as Dischord, who very much on Gordon Craig or even if we needed a man of this particular moment on G. towards. No theologians, and one from the cinema (no even Disney) and, what is now becoming embarrassing, obvious no writers at all, either as subjects or contributors. No Virginia Woolf, no Marie Stopes, Margaret Mead, Maria Montessori, Gertrude Stein? Slight omissions may be forgiven, but in that Anna Lavers is to write on Barthes, and Mary Douglas on Evans Pritchard. But with two French existentialists marching to words in the series (Sartre and Merleau-Ponty) it might be better to give the editor Frank Kermode to consider extending the range of the Modern Masters beyond the present rather restricted boundaries.

A present from...

Pictorial Souvenirs of Britain

By Ian T. Henderson

(David & Charles, £5.50)

Coronation Souvenirs and Commemoratives

By David Rodgers

(Lattimer, £3.40)

Although his book shows the odd eighteenth-century enamel patch box, most of the pictorial souvenirs shown and discussed by Ian Henderson are of low technical quality and of late nineteenth-century date. They are those little trinket jugs and mugs and plates with blameworthy-pink borders surrounding a crude transfer print of an English resort, often with the legend "A Present From Germany". Many of them were made in Germany: on one pair of plates illustrated by Mr Henderson, "Weymouth" is given an unimpaired view of the Chapel Litten ruins at Basingstoke, which, for once, appear not to have changed since they were shown on a "Made in Germany" mug. Mr Henderson is preparing a book by a symposium of authors on the more heavy topographical war is it hoped that an exhibition of these may be shown in the Brighton Museums; and his most original plan is to make a film in which the views on the porcelain will "fade into" the original location.

Public concern over the invasion of the English market by German manufactures in the late nineteenth century was similar to that over the proliferation of monopolies in the early twentieth century. When Colepeper said of them: "These like the frogs of Egypt, have got possession of our dwellings... they sup in our cup, they dip in our dish, they spit on our fire; we find them in the oven, wash-bowl, and powdering-nub." It is perhaps the only weakness of Mr Henderson's book that he does not sufficiently relate the blameworthy-pink to their historical context by dealing with the agitation over "Made in Germany".

When I last wrote about Mr Henderson two or three years ago, he said he was preparing to finance someone to go to Germany and research the origins of the souvenir wares. That someone was found in the person of Mr A. W. Cowh (a well-known expert on English blue and white pottery), who contributes an epilogue to this book headed "The End of a Story". Among other factories he visited were the Porzellanfabrik Mitterteich. "When I showed the wares to the manager, a young man bearing a printed view of Plymouth I might just as well have been handing him a piece of lunar rock until he turned the plate over to look at the 'back mark', in this case a red, silver-lined, three-pointed star. "Yes," he said, "this must have been made in this factory; that was the mark of Max Emanuel." A small step for mankind; a giant step for collectors of blameworthy-pink souvenirs.

David Rodgers's equally admirable book, on Coronation Souvenirs, is mainly about "up-market" antiques, which would be cordially welcomed into the bosom of the Grosvenor House Fair: a superb German covered goblet engraved with the arms of George VI, probably by the original location, Germany (with a king "Made in Germany", the public could hardly complain); expensive English delftware bearing portraits of Charles II; even a silver beaker given by Lord Cholmondeley to his page at the coronation of George VI. At the same time he does not omit the more "pop" souvenirs: on the page opposite the illustration of the Cholmondeley beaker is a pressed paper mug, which was also produced at the time of George VI's coronation, and printed: "First for Thirst. Drink a Loyal Toast to Gubhrie's Lemonade."



English delft bleeding bowl.

and photographing it as it is today. To some extent he illustrates this in his present book—namely by showing a modern view of the Chapel Litten ruins at Basingstoke, which, for once, appear not to have changed since they were shown on a "Made in Germany" mug. Mr Henderson is preparing a book by a symposium of authors on the more heavy topographical war is it hoped that an exhibition of these may be shown in the Brighton Museums; and his most original plan is to make a film in which the views on the porcelain will "fade into" the original location.

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Bevis Hillier

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Moves to make nuclear treaty effective

By A. M. Rendel

Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union, the three countries which act as depository states for the proliferation treaty of 1968, have held a two-day meeting in London to prepare for next month's conference which will review the operation of the treaty.

The conference, in Geneva on May 5, will aim not at amending the treaty but ensuring that its provisions banning the spread of nuclear weapons are effective. It is now particularly opportune in view of the imminent big increase in the number of nuclear power stations throughout the world capable of producing enriched uranium, the raw material for nuclear weapons.

The International Atomic Energy Agency recorded 101 nuclear reactors in 1970 and estimated that by 1978 this would rise to 329. The plutonium from such reactors is estimated to increase from 30,000kg a year in 1975 to 380,000kg by 1985.

The world energy crisis means that these forecasts are probably under-estimates. In any event, at least 20 states could soon possess the equipment and the technical knowledge to develop a nuclear explosive capability, and so far only about half are parties to the treaty.

To date, 87 nations have both signed and ratified the treaty and all are invited to the Geneva conference.

Among the nations which have not signed are China, France, India, Pakistan, Israel, Egypt, Brazil, Argentina and South Africa. France, although not a party to the treaty, has declared that it will act as though it were, and will not therefore use nuclear weapons against those who do not transfer them to other powers.

China has declared on several occasions that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. India has exploded a nuclear device which it says was for peaceful purposes only, but the treaty's signatories are considering whether these explosions can be conducted exclusively for such ends.

And all are invited to the Geneva conference.

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Law Report April 23 1975

When bedstivers become hotel rooms

Mayflower Cambridge Ltd v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another. Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Ashworth and Mr Justice May.

An hotel is essentially a place for a transient population, in contrast to bedstiving accommodation which provides a permanent home for people. The Divisional Court so decided in a judgment given by Mr Justice May. The appeal by Mayflower Cambridge Ltd against the decision of the first respondent, the Secretary of State for the Environment, upholding an enforcement notice served by the second respondents, Cambridge City Council, on the appellants requiring them to discontinue the use of hotel purposes of buildings constructed under a planning permission to provide bedstiving accommodation.

Mr Michael Howard for the appellants; Mr Gary Woolf for the Secretary of State. The council neither appeared nor were represented.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that a purpose-built seven-story block of residential premises was erected in the centre of Cambridge in the late 1950s or early 1970s to provide bedstiving accommodation. Such accommodation was needed for students.

The appellants, who were the present owners, let the rooms under two kinds of tenancy: weekly and yearly. The weekly tenancies included central heating, electricity for lighting, laundering, cooking facilities, bed linen, room cleaning and baths. Weekly tenants included central heating and the cost of electricity. Linen and towels were available at an additional charge. In broad terms the two three floors were let on nightly terms, the lower four on weekly terms.

The enforcement notice, paragraph (3) read, there has been a breach of planning control in that the said land has been developed by the making of a material change in the use of the buildings... to part use for hotel purposes.

The appeal centred round the question whether there was a clear, recognized and well-understood distinction between the use of the buildings as bedstiving accommodation and as an hotel. Mr Mayflower submitted that the notice was defective because the meaning of "part use for hotel purposes" was unclear. He relied on the Miller-Mead v Minister of Housing and Local Government (1963) 2 Q.B. 196. But the important question was whether the notice was too vague. His Lordship believed it understood. It objected to the use of the buildings as an hotel but not as bedstiving accommodation. The difference between the two turned mainly on the stability or instability of their population. To prove hotel use it was not necessary to establish that meals were provided or that there were porters or kitchen maids.

The essence of an hotel was that it took in transient passengers or guests, whether there was a permanent population. An hotel was there to service people who were travelling. By contrast, a bedstiving room was somebody's home where he remained for a substantial period. The two concepts were so understood in ordinary English. The notice would therefore be understood by anyone reading it as objecting only to the letting of the buildings on a nightly basis. There was no ground to criticize the notice or Secretary of State for confirming it.

Mr Justice May agreed. Mr Justice Ashworth and Mr Justice May agreed.

The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Davenport, Lyons & Co.; Treasury Solicitor.

Queen's Bench Division

Monarchs in Waiting. By Walter J. P. Curley (Hutchinson, £4.55). A guide for the devout royalist-watcher (in the author's own phrase), this is in some ways an astonishing book, parading the foreboding hopes of a pale horde of pre-readers, some of them still confidently awaiting the telegram: Come Home, All England Love Russia. Some candidates he gives up utterly, declining for instance to place much confidence in the possible replacement of Elizabeth II by the Stuart claimant, HRH Prince Albert of Bavaria. Tactful where tact is evidently needed (in the rival claims of the Count of Paris and HRH Prince Louis Napoleon to the throne of France, or of HRH Don Juan, HRH Don Juan Carlos and Prince Carlos Hugo to that of Spain) the book contains interviews with at least two pretenders who would bring great intelligence and expertise to any throne (the enthusiastic pan-European Archduke Otto or Dr Otto Habsburg—and Prince Louis Ferdinand of Germany), and (thumbing) sketches make it pretty clear which monarchs are best occupied in waiting, and which we may on the whole be sorry to have missed.

Geographical red herring

The North-West Passage

By George Malcolm Thomson

(Secker & Warburg, £4.75)

The search for a North-West Passage connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific by way of the Arctic and the frozen north persisted almost from the beginnings of navigation until Ross and Amundsen actually found it in 1903. Thanks to financial assistance from a whaler captain called William Mogg, Amundsen finished his journey on foot at the northernmost American Army post, Fort Egbert, and thence sent a telegram proclaiming his discovery.

It was a formidable achievement and one which had eluded centuries of brave and proficient seamen and yet today Amundsen is remembered as the man who got to the South Pole a month ahead of Scott. The North-West passage, dreamt of as the fast route to Cathay, and therefore a maker of fortunes, is a sort of geographical red herring, acknowledged but useless.

In this detailed study of the voyages which culminated in

Amundsen's, George Malcolm Thomson has drawn extensively on the original diaries and logbooks, and has been aided by some of the best Arctic explorers of the past, including Davis, Franklin and Amundsen himself.

It is a story of extraordinary bravery and hardship, laced with some delicious villainy and made more hazardous by a persisting ignorance. Time and again the explorers believe that they have found the passage only to discover that they are sailing down the Hudson or St Lawrence rivers or into the cul-de-sac of Hudson's Bay. Some of their plans and discoveries have a touching naivety about them. Hudson, for instance, was ordered to discover the Spice Islands by the simple expedient of sailing due north.

As with other tales of discovery it is men's endurance and courage in pursuit of an end which is at least as fascinating as the end itself. Advances in knowledge—scarcely tempered these days—have not dimmed the fascination. Davis had the foresight to have 14,000 pegs dried for food, yet subsequently the survivors of Hudson's crew were reduced to a pomd of candles a man while Amundsen's nineteenth-century expedition two men suffered from glacial spray were

able to continue their forced march only after drinking tea and eating a few scraps of burnt leather. The cold itself played some macabre tricks; the mate of one ship was discovered perfectly preserved in ice six months after he had fallen overboard, and Sir Hugh Willoughby and his crew were frozen in life-like postures, like victims at Pompeii.

Some of the adventures were sponsored by governments or wealthy merchants; others were virtually unbacked, like Amundsen who slipped anchor surreptitiously from Oslo because he was hopelessly in debt. Some seem well prepared and disciplined, while others sailed with hopeless crews or in such unlikely vessels as Ross's "Victory", converted Isle of Man paddle steamer. Small wonder that some men, like the mate of Foxe's ship, took to the bottle until they were, in a memorable phrase, "all wobble".

The text is helped by some splendid illustrations, but not by the one inadequate and confusing map. If this was the sort of chart the explorers had to contend with, it is small wonder they were so frequently lost.

Tim Heald

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University of Glasgow Press

A Natural History of Loch Lomond and the surrounding area, written and illustrated by John Macdonald. The book covers the history, geology, botany, and zoology of the region. It is a comprehensive guide to the area, and is highly recommended for those interested in the natural history of Scotland.

University of Glasgow Press

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Lanka and film work

her most handsomely in a

rous. Fewer support scenes

She also has a good understand-

ing of women in all their ages

and moods. There are moving

portraits of monsters

grandmother made rigid by her

riches, an elderly aunt with fail-

ing eyesight, robbed by her

young bridegroom, a Jewish

mother who rivals one of Roth's

for pride, and a group of

women whose enthusiasm for

consciousness-raising fails to

elevate their inescapably dull

consciousness. Despite its acce-

table quality it is a book that

manages to be warmly likeable.

It's hard to know what I feel

about John Farris's new book,

Sharp Practice. Intensely read-

able, full of false clues, excite-

ment and cleverness, it trades

so openly on western mys-

teries that it makes sexual

taboos and violence irresistible

in so full of cheating and repul-

siveness, that half of me wants

to condemn a book I could

put down. By my own admis-

sion that simply wouldn't be

fair. So I'll sidestep the issue

by saying the book has a

lovely way of covering con-

fusion as I can think of.

A Jack the Ripper figure is

loose in Oxford (which gives

a specious touch of class to

the plot, lots of bosh-intellec-

tual dialogue) and later on, in

Tennessee (for the landscape).

Mr Farris writes as if with a

box-office film clearly in mind

so there's oodles of blood, sex

—of both the straight and in-

cessuous kind—and sudden

shock which he contrives very

well indeed. It helped me

through the recent rail dispute

so effectively, I barely noticed

all the delays and changes of

train.

John Brooks Barry has built

his book around the real Jack

the Ripper—whenever he was.

That Mr Barry doesn't say

Telling the story from the

viewpoint of an unwholesome

antiviral nineteenth-century

social worker, Mr Barry pre-

sents a case for believing the

Ripper was helped in his hor-

rible business by one of the

Whitechapel whores.

The Manson cult, Myra

Hindley and one or two other

recent cases give the

argument a plausibility I'm

not sure it deserves. No more

than average familiarity with

the Whitechapel murders, I was

at a loss to know how much

of the 'evidence' in this book

was invented and how much

is true.

While I forgive Mr Farris his

duplicities because he worked

so hard to make me a willing

party to them, I'm not nearly

so ready to extend the same

generosity to Mr Barry. He

writes too boringly. The fasci-

nation of his own residence

solely in the actual events. His

own personal fascination for

what he solemnly calls Sapphic

relationships (critical to his

thesis) doesn't widen the

dimension of the tale so much

as fill me with respect for his

motives in writing this peculiar

pudding of fact and fiction.

Jacky Gillott

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Henry James Letters

Volume One 1843-1875

Edited by Leon Edel

(Macmillan, £10)

The largest collection of Henry James letters

before this one was made by Percy Lubbock

in the years following James's death and pub-

lished in 1922. Being in awful mind the

novelist's views on privacy and the artist,

exemplified not merely in *The Aspern Papers*

but in his own booklets of destruction at

Lamb House, Lubbock was watched over with

obscure tenacity by Mrs William James and

with rather more understanding by her son

Harry who, as literary executor, was discover-

ing for the first time the magnitude and

uniqueness of Uncle Henry's achievement.

Leon Edel, who has already fenced dazlingly

with the ghosts of Newport and Rye in a five-

volume biography (1953-72), tells us that

Lubbock was wise enough to see transcripts

of the letters to the family and was discouraged,

if not positively prevented, from using any

more intimate material that might mar the

lines of the portrait Mrs James felt obliged

to pass on to posterity. The Master, as Edel

puts it, in top hat, the Great Panjandrum of

early modern letters. The effect was grand

indeed, but neutered, infuriatingly infallible:

part Polonius (as a bitter Thomas Hardy

earlier observed) part Edwardian grande

dame of a long Firbank and unconsciously

mimicking Wilde.

Very tiny fragments of their foolish, flit-

terious and convoluted ladies glimmer through

even Mr Edel's exhilarating selection. So they

should: they do make up a part of the Jamesian

personality, but it is a much less significant

part than often been supposed. If he does

one thing, moving as strong, no top hat

to all manner of correspondents, he cries out,

top, for "an intelligent male brain" with which

to engage on his travels. Being brother to the

formidable William was only a partial answer

in him that the correspondence was taken up

much of the correspondence was taken up with

news of father and mother, sister Alice, and,

to a lesser extent, Aunt Kate and the fighting,

pioneering, younger brothers, Wilky and Bob.

Travelling and civilization in Europe, and the

family, are the chief subjects of the young

James's letters and they are capped in a voice

that is clear, moving and strong: no top hat

here. It is also very funny. "They live," he

writes of the English women taking, like him,

the waters at Malvern.

wholly in the realm of the cut and dried.

"Have you ever been to Florence?" "Oh yes."

"Isn't it a most peculiarly interesting city?" "Oh

yes, it is so very nice." "Have you read

Romaine?" "Oh yes." "I suppose you admire

it?" "Oh yes, I think it's so very clever."

Edel's first volume runs to more than 500

pages and covers James's upbringing and early

manhood in New York, Boston, Newport (R.I.)

and Cambridge (Mass) and his first two adult

trips to Europe, above all his residence in,

and response to, Florence, Rome, Paris and

London. From 1869 on, he began to write

news and articles to *Atlantic Monthly*, *Galaxy*and the *Nation*. In 1874 he gathered the storiestogether as *The Passionate Pilgrim* and thejournalism (at his own cost) as *Transatlantic**Sketches*; in 1875 he completed and publishedhis first successful serial-novel, *Roderick**Hudson*. Exactly one hundred years ago,

the irrepressible Yankee was on his way back

to Europe for good. "Dear People All—"

he wrote his family from Storr's Hotel, Dover

Street on November 1, 1875. "I take possession

of the old world—I inhale it—I appropriate

it."

Great letters, like long, rich and subtle lives,

are additive, and the biography grows in the

writing from there to five. The

letters were intended as a two-volume supple-

ment to the life; now they are to fill four

of their own. It will neither be too many, nor

complete. To readers who find the longer-

breathed novels virtually unreadable these

letters of intensive and delightful appren-

ticeship can be recommended without reservation.

Dear People All

Michael Ratcliffe



Henry James with his father, 1854.

the sensibility is recognizably that of the fiction

but syntactically they are scarcely the work

of the same hand. One letter here revealingly

confesses a horror of ever "writing thin",

which may explain the thickening subterfuge

of extravagance that came later.

Plausibly arguing that simple photocopying

has rendered complete editions no longer essen-

tial, Edel has chosen his letters first for their

quality—none is dull—and second for their

corroboration of his biography's most crucial

corrective views: James is conclusively con-

firmed as a tireless professional living from his

pen and, more important, as a boy, youth and

man of passion and deep feeling.

There are no words for these collections. As I stood

in him that the shaking death of his

Magdalen, each in its street of towers and

capped my throbbing brow in the wild dimness of

its courts, I thought that the heart of me would

crack with the fulness of satisfied desire.

While they were clearly assembled with

great care as exercises in the writer's art of

communicating perceptions, they were also

weapons against silence and isolation—

travelled alone most of the time—and their

spontaneous rings as true as their thinking is

orderly. There is no breath of attachment to

any young lady in these years and only the

most Hellenic admiration for the beauty of

Swiss Guards, Venetian gondoliers and most

of the men of Florence (these were

presumably some of the homeric

effusions to which the philosopher's scrupulous

widow took exception in 1919) but no one who

reads these letters can fail to catch the over-

whelming physicality of the young man who

wrote them. Even allowing for the open

language of affection common at the time,

this is striking.

Family letters abound in verbal bugs and

kisses ("I squeeze you") and to his close friend

T. S. Perry, variously addressed as "Faithless

Shopping

John Groser



If you have a taste for silver spoons

I am commiserative of things do not impress me. My of Britain silver, I was not born, a my mouth) has led me with unique. Most hated of all nation mug, which tad of poor quality sisted all attempts t.

power to resist the temptation of a special bronze replica of the Bay of Pigs. Somehow, I managed not to invest in a Mark and Anne pewter (limited edition) silver. If, however, you like memorabilia, go immediately to Garrard, the Crown Jewellers, at 112 Regent Street, London W1A 2JJ (01-734 7020). There you will be able to inspect a

limited edition of fine silver which Garrard have been commissioned to supply to mark the quinqucentenary of St George's Chapel, Windsor. The collection comprises three pieces—a wine coaster, a paper knife and a caddy spoon. Only 500 of each will be made in sterling silver. In addition, ten spoons, knives and coasters will be offered in 18 ct gold. Each piece is inset with a

silver gilt medallion, chosen as the "theme" for the collection by Garrard's designer, Alex Styles. His inspiration came from a carving in the Sovereign's Stall in the Chapel, which commemorates the Treaty of Picquigny in 1475 and shows the meeting of King Edward IV and King Louis XI.

Like all Styles's work, the pieces have great simplicity and dignity. They are beautiful to handle, look good and (apart from the merit of investment) are functional.

Which is not to say that I would want to own them, even if I could afford them. The cost of the coaster, in silver, is £140. The silver paper knife is £110, and a silver caddy spoon comes at £50. Application forms for this limited edition and descriptive leaflets are available from Garrard.

In a way it is a pity that Garrard maintain an image of only being there for the "top end of the market" for there are some wonderful goodies in the store which those who do not regard themselves as "top people" might want and afford.

The showroom is a bit forbidding, none the less, although on my last visit a couple in jeans and Yakkety coats were shopping. A floorwalker told me they were Mick and Bianca someone. *Chacun son tout*... I suppose.

use of you who are still convinced of the possibility of a holiday, perhaps, at the Chancellors' in the country) here is age to help you on your way. an't afford a holiday, the night cheer you up anyway. have produced the Fido suitcases or removable Fido is in two sizes, 24in and his (for men with weak her (Fido is completely stores swivel at the back and

are fixed at the front. Fido has two tips which meet in the middle as well as leather straps which buckle closed. In addition, Fido has a leather lead so that he can be pulled along behind you. Made out of nylon cord and available in black or brown, the two-foot size costs around £34 and the bigger one about £38. Fido should be on show in the bigger stores now. Stockists and further details from Molmar, Silver House, Quaker Street, London, E1 (01-247 5911).

If you like marching luggage, All

Square Purchasing of 54 Leman Street, London E1 8EU (01-709 9926) have a travel set made out of waterproofed canvas with leather-look handles and edging. In either striped or plain finish, the 23in suitcase, 20in weekend case and shoulder bag costs £24.50 the set, plus 65p for postage and packing.

There is a 21in holdall for only £9.50 (postage an extra 35p). The four-piece set, or the three-piece set, or the holdall on its own can be purchased with Access cards. Mail orders and inquiries to All Square.

Apart from being romantic, candlelight is obviously more economical than electricity (unless you have storage lamps to go with your storage heaters). This elegant candle lamp houses an ordinary 5in household candle (you know, like you used during the power cuts). The great thing about the lamp is that you never see the candle, for it is concealed in the stem and is pushed

upwards by a spring at the base. So you get an even flame with minimum wax mess.

It is made of satin-finished stainless steel with an amethyst glass globe. At £9.95, the lamp offers the sort of value for money that most Old Hall Tableware products do. It is available from the stores and shops where you find other Old Hall stainless steel goods.

A pin in time saves cooking

● My suggestion a fortnight ago that some women were terrified to use spices and garlic in their cooking has caused grave offence, I fear. Really, ladies, I was not implying that women could not cook. I simply meant that you do not cook so well as men. See? No hard feelings?

So to make amends, I have discovered a terrific gadget that will help when you are roasting joints and poultry. Called the Thermo Pin, the device will reduce cooking time, often by as much as 40 per cent.

The Thermo Pin is a hollow skewer with black fins at one end. These fins absorb heat from the oven by means of a sealed-in liquid which becomes a safe gas when heated. The hot gas travels along the tubular skewer (which is stuck through the joint) and cooks the meat from the inside—the oven, meanwhile, is still working on the outside of the joint.

In a test roast of two identical joints of beef each weighing three pounds, the unpinned joint took just under two hours while the meat with the Thermo Pin in it took about an hour and a half—a 20 per cent saving on a joint of this size.

Made by Brannans, famous for their thermometers and barometers, the Thermo Pin is sold by Gaydon Impex, 38 High Street, Chipstead, Sevenoaks, Kent (Sevenoaks S187Z). It costs £2.90 plus 10p postage. Personal shoppers are welcome at 1 High Street, Chipstead.

Coarse, but now colourful, coir

● Coir fibre has always been a cheap and practical form of carpeting, though some people feel that it is a bit rough under bare foot.

To my mind, the greatest drawback of coir carpeting has been the fact that hitherto it was only available in a natural shade—a sort of biscuit colour

before the biscuit has been dunked in the tea.

A new range of woven Coir carpet known as Gypsy Weave is available exclusively from Afia Carpets, 81 Baker Street, London W1M 1AJ (01-935 0414) and if you agree that beige or biscuit can be a monotonous colour you will

be pleased with the shades now offered. Grass Green is a lively colour and Bitter Chocolate looks smart. Cobnut is a bit dull for my taste—a touch of the old biscuits, really. Gypsy Weave is 72in wide and costs £1.65 per square yard for these new shades. Dreary old Natural is, of course, still available at £1.25 a square yard.

Problem TOR WANTS ACTION

My actor friend, an actor to hear his other played a statue to a baller at home, me winter at dinner, everywhere that I the kitchen. We filed a non-dam called for me. A a practical problem usually got the John Problem, and for our letter to a Vauxhall, Bridge road, London SW11.

01-828 8181

Enjoy good coffee and good sleep

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Made-to-measure bed that takes you back in time

● The idea of a bespoke bed is enormously appealing, and if you do not already have your own tame carpenter, I recommend that you pay a visit to Les Mason at 27 Church Street, London, NW8. The shop there is called Three Bridges and the telephone has yet to be wired up. You can ring his workshop, however, and leave a message (01-624 4748).

Les Mason is proud of being a carpenter and scorns euphemisms like "furniture maker". He believes that carpenters are craftsmen and he seeks to maintain the standards of bygone days. He makes beds—four-posters, canopies, cribs and has a range of 36 styles.

Having worked mainly with pine (because that has been the craze) he has not deserted the old favourites for canopies.

and will make you a mahogany or solid oak bed. Double-bed four-posters start at around £100 for softwood and go up to about £260. Delivery is usually within four weeks and carriage to different parts of the country would vary and is extra.

You may specify long or short posts. Canopies are optional extras. Most modern houses can take tester beds but the ceilings are too low for canopies.

come up with a spray called Safe Near Food, designed especially for the kitchen. The 8 oz aerosol can contains a spray which is not perfumed and which is economical to use.

Safe Near Food is effective against wasps, mosquitoes, gnats and all other flying nasties. It costs about 28p and is available everywhere.

'Bubbly' that is easy on the pocket

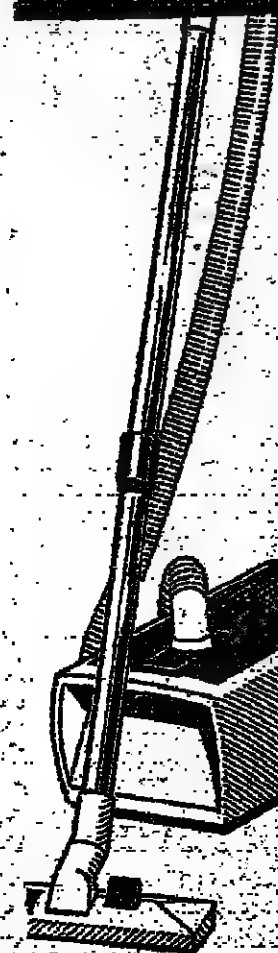
● Invited to drown my sorrows after the Budget, I was offered a glass of champagne by my wine merchant. Hang on, I thought, Chateau Healey at post-Budget prices? So I sipped tentatively. Pause for long sigh of appreciation. Not just fizzy white wine, but a subtle drink from one of the better houses.

"A 1966", I ventured. "Yes", said he. "Taittinger?" I suggested. "Ha, ha, you're a wine snob", chorled he, producing the bottle of Gran Codorniu, a fine, 1966, methode champenoise wine, which at under £3 a bottle costs about one third of a similar quality Champagne. It comes from Spain.

If you have not heard of this wine either, do try it. Three qualities of Codorniu are available. Grand Corday is better than most of the cheap, non-vintage champagne (what am I saying, which ones are cheap nowadays?) and costs about £1.75 a bottle.

Non Plus Ultra (super for weddings) is around £2 a bottle. Gran Codorniu at £2.80 a bottle is for drinking at your wine merchant's expense. Wine stores all over the country stock some of all of the Codorniu methode champenoise wines. The importers are Codorniu (UK) Ltd, Burlington Buildings, Orford Place, Norwich, NR1 3RU (Norwich 618615).

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PARLIAMENT, April 23, 1975

Independent inquiry into events concerning the Crown Agents: new board overcoming problems

House of Commons
Mrs. HART, Minister of Overseas Development (Lanark, Lab.), in a statement about the Crown Agents, said:

Just before the Christmas recess, I explained the immediate problems of the Crown Agents' reserves and liquidity which had been reported to me by the new chairman and board, and announced the Government's agreement to provide immediate support of £50m and the agreement of the Bank of England to provide standby facilities.

So far, the Crown Agents have found no need to draw upon either the £50m or the standby facility at the Bank of England to meet their immediate needs. I am confident that this will continue to be the case. But the support of the Government stands firm and ready.

The grant is there to cover prudent writing down of assets as necessary, and to provide a capital base.

I would also like the House to know of the confidence I have in Mr. John Cuckney, the new chairman of the Crown Agents, and in his board. In the most difficult circumstances, they are overcoming problems with considerable success. Since December, overseas principals have increased the scope and scale of their business with the Crown Agents.

Confidence has increased, and it is right that the Government should be able to see the steady and gradual withdrawal from property investments and secondary banking, according to the recommendations of the Salomon Committee.

I have now made further progress towards the need, I have appointed Mr. Harry Hoff, Mr. James Jack and, with effect from July 1, Mrs. Hester Boothroyd, to join Lord Leighton and Mr. John Gordon as members of the board. I have also appointed Mr. John Goble, at present a member of the board, to be chairman.

I can now make an interim report—not yet a final one, for reasons I shall make clear, it concerns the Crown Agents' reserves and liquidity.

The chairman has provided me with his board's views on the circumstances which led to the need for financial support. I have been assisted by the investigations carried out by Cooper and Lybrand, the consulting accountants. They have had to work on a very large number of transactions made over a long period of time.

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Heavy Government defeat: MPs decide on county and regional voting results in EEC membership referendum

The committee stage of the Referendum Bill was resumed.

On Clause 2 (Conduct of referendum),

MR STEEL (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L.) moved an amendment to provide for the county and regional voting results to be conducted on a constituency basis. Similar amendments were also discussed.

He said in previous committee debates ministers repeatedly used the argument that in conducting the referendum they wished as far as possible to observe normal election procedures. But a centralized count was a big departure from normal election procedures and was undesirable and cumbersome.

Ballot boxes would have to be brought from throughout the United Kingdom to Ears Court, piled up in the hall and then counted. The mind boggled at such an exercise, and the House should be told how much of the £5m was earmarked for this national count.

It would be difficult to avoid leaks on how the count was going. There were enough leaks from local counts taking only a few hours so how were they going to avoid speculation on a count taking three days and nights?

In a local count they would be able to see the results of the returning officers' returns. The returning officers would be generating enthusiasm for the count. It would be the public if the count were at local level.

It was argued that a constituency count was liable to bring undue attention to the position of the MP. In his constituency he would be applying regardless of whether an MP was pro- or anti-market. This would be a serious disadvantage to the Government.

It was also argued that a local count would be used for separatist purposes. In Northern Ireland, for electoral convenience, because of the special circumstances, it should be treated in a special manner in which he had proposed.

MR MACFARQUHAR (Belper, Lab.), speaking in support of the amendment, said a national count would be a disaster. It would be a national count, not a referendum. It would be a national count, not a referendum. It would be a national count, not a referendum.

MR ALEX FLETCHER (Edinburgh, North, C.) said he supported the amendment. The referendum was a referendum, not a referendum. It was a referendum, not a referendum. It was a referendum, not a referendum.

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MR DYKES (Harrow, East, C.) moved an amendment to provide that the result of the vote should be announced in both Houses of Parliament simultaneously on the day after the count was completed.

MR GERALD FOWLER, Minister of State, Privy Council Office (The Wrekin, Lab.), said that it was intended that a statement would be made in Parliament the day after the completion of the count. There was a practical difficulty in the way of not making an announcement of the result until it was announced in Parliament.

It would be the worst of all possible results if the poll result were to leak accurately or inaccurately before a due declaration in proper form.

SIR MICHAEL HAYES (Meriton, Wiltshire, C.) said the Opposition intended to put down an amendment to provide that the result of the vote should be announced in both Houses of Parliament simultaneously on the day after the count was completed.

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which they asked people to cast their votes on an issue and they they came back to the House with no mechanism for putting that result into practice. MRs would have been the laughing stock of these islands. It could be a serious challenge to the Commons.

He would regard his constituency result as binding on him. Whether or not the debate resulted in a change to the Bill, he was going to assess the Welsh result. They would have the result out if not on the night then the next day.

MR LEE (Birmingham, Handsworth, Lab.) said the arguments about a central count were not convincing. The task facing the counting and scrutiny staff would be great. The opportunities for mischief and disruption that a central count would give rise to made the mind boggle at the security arrangements that would be necessary. It would take only two or three days on the count in certain circumstances.

MR RIDLEY (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C.) said the reason the Government wanted to have the count on a national basis was that they could side out of their responsibilities to their constituents.

It came off from the four ministers leading the revolt against Government policy to say that the referendum should be binding on the Government. It was the same time to deny him and other MPs the opportunity of knowing how their constituents voted. It was at the heart of the dishonest case being put forward by those pressing for a national count.

MR WINFRED EWING (Moray and Nairn, Scot. Nat.) said he supported the amendment. The central count would be a disaster. It would be a national count, not a referendum. It was a referendum, not a referendum. It was a referendum, not a referendum.

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That would not be helpful recording how individual party members voted. All it would make it easier to foster a feeling of mistrust and suspicion towards membership of EEC. It was far better to face to any short-term controversy the central counting, and to the amendments, than to a damaging national unity in future.

If that was true for a count, it was even more true for a constituency count. They would risk adding to the chaos further.

The Government and Parties had made clear again and again that the final decision on membership must rest with the people. They were also sure, however, that the people's wishes should be the basis of the decision. The House was a whole should follow the people's wishes. It was not the business of the House to decide on the individual part of it. The House would wish to be guided that was the essence of the referendum.

Many hon. members attacked the proposal to count the votes at Ears Court. Now the preparations count there were well advanced. There were well advanced. There were well advanced. There were well advanced.

MR PHIPPS (Dudley, West, Lab.) said voting should be on a regional basis.

MR RUSSELL JOHNSTON (Inverness, Lab.) said the Government's proposal for a constituency count was a disaster. It would be a national count, not a referendum. It was a referendum, not a referendum. It was a referendum, not a referendum.

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MR DYKES said he was not

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Ronald Butt

Abortion: Let the whole truth be heard

The Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering the Abortion (Amendment) Bill is not taking evidence, despite the bitter objections of a determined lobby to this particular mode of parliamentary inquiry and to the committee's balanced composition. The reason for the objections is, of course, that a select committee can range much wider than the Bill before it, as an ordinary standing committee on a Bill could not. The device of the select committee, constructively used in the nineteenth century to examine social topics of public concern, will be able to take evidence on how the present law is working and consider generally what abuses there are and whether there is a case for reform.

This should mean hearing and testing all available evidence. But this, apparently, is not how the select committee functions. They appear to want nothing to happen that might shake confidence in the way the law is working and their concern on this score is palpable.

I recently drew attention to some appalling allegations made in a book called *Babies for Burning* about the working of the abortion law, the conduct of private agencies (charitable and commercial) and of certain doctors working in this field. Much of the material in the book had appeared in articles in the *News of the World* over a year earlier. There can be no doubt that the book

makes a prima facie case which the select committee ought to examine. However, in an article in *The Sunday Times* certain allegations have since been made concerning the credentials of one of the authors, Mr Michael Litchfield, and some of the claims made in the book. These are allegations which could only be answered by the authors themselves and, in any case, there is apparently a possibility of legal action arising. But whatever conclusions eventually emerge in respect of the specific questions in *The Sunday Times* article, this in no way removes the need for an investigation by the select committee of the much wider issues raised by the book, about the working of the abortion law. Indeed, such investigation is now more than ever necessary.

There apparently exists many hours of evidence on tape concerning a considerable number of named people and organizations. Some of this has already been heard by several people, including an MP. The fact that the tapes exist at all, which nobody disputes, is surely reason enough for the Select Committee to hear them.

Yet, astonishingly, the undoubtedly important allegations in *The Sunday Times* in respect of one of the authors personally, and of parts of the book have been seized on by the abortion extremists as grounds for demanding that the book as a whole and presumably also the *News of the World* article should be ruled out of

consideration. Immediately *The Sunday Times* article appeared, Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, MP, was reported as having written asking the select committee, "to preclude this book from any serious consideration in the light of these allegations."

On April 10, Mrs Renée Short, MP, demanded of the leader of the House of Commons, Mr Edward Short, that he should "disband the select committee which is examining the Abortion (Amendment) Bill as it has been demonstrated to be based on a fraud and is being investigated by the Director of Public Prosecutions." Each of Mrs Short's assertions was incorrect.

First, despite the particular charges now raised about the book, the basis of the book has not been demonstrated to be a "fraud." Indeed, *The Sunday Times* article, even while suggesting that it should be read with scepticism, described it as having a "core of truth." And it is certainly hard to believe that the parts which had appeared in the *News of the World* (they were the most significant parts) were never sifted to ensure against "fraud."

Further, in considering whether the book, for all its shortcomings, makes a prima facie case for examination (and I have gone no further than this) it would be wise to take into account a long review which appeared, before mine, by Mr Jerry Cowbig, the editor of the *General Practitioner*, in that paper on November 29,

1974, under the heading: A Book that can't be ignored. While critical of the general tone and scope of the book, Mr Cowbig (whose own position towards the present abortion law is generally, I understand, favourable) insisted that its charges must be tested and that "if 10 lines of this are true, then the abortion control office of the Department of Health should be shaken up." He concluded: "...one must say that, however cynical one is of exposed, too much of the Litchfield-Kenish book rings true to anyone who has met practising abortionists."

As for Mrs Short's second point, she was also not accurate in saying that the book as such is being investigated by the DPP, with the apparent implication that it is being investigated as a "fraud." What I understand the DPP to be examining are certain sections of the book which, if they are correct, reveal abuses of a potentially criminal nature.

Finally, there is Mrs Short's statement that Mr White's Bill and the select committee were based on the book. Mr Edward Short dismissed this in these terms: "It is not based on a book at all. It is a very appropriate way in which to examine this matter." So it is—and I am personally assured by Mr White that his Bill, which would put an end to personal convenience abortions, was devised well before he had ever heard of this particular book.

Indignation at the idea that the book should be investigated

has also bubbled up in the Lords. Lord Houghton, whose wife, Lady Houghton, has long been active in the pro-abortion movement rose last week to ask the Home Office minister about the DPP's inquiries and *The Sunday Times* article. He launched into a bitter attack on the book, partly on the grounds that it has been obtained by "the most reprehensible means of concealed tapes." Well, short work would have been made of the authors were there no taped evidence, and there can be no automatic ethical objection to the use of concealed cameras (as in some television investigations) or tapes as witnesses in investigating a relationship between members of the public and those offering them a professional or commercial service, where no other witness to possible abuse is available. This is something quite different from taping private conversations.

Lord Houghton suggested that the select committee be "on its guard against relying on evidence in this squalid book" but nobody would suggest that it should rely on evidence in the book. What is needed is that it should test the validity of taped evidence.

A number of enraged people are proposing that this evidence be not heard. Why, and what are they afraid of? One would suppose that if they were confident that the whole book did not stand up, they would be only too glad to have this shown up by a proper

examination of it. Apparently they are frightened. The scope of the select committee is much wider than the Bill. The public is entitled to know what have been the consequences of an Act which has had effects not intended by many who voted for it. One is abortion on demand. Another is the growth of an abortion industry worth at least £10m a year. A third is abortion without proper counselling. The relevance of *Babies for Burning* is its claim to offer specific evidence of such abuses as the diagnosis of false pregnancies, even after internal medical examination; the widespread practice of illegal abortion on demand; the custom of asking girls for cash payments; and unwarranted assurances that abortion has no physical consequences. It also alleges that some babies are not "terminated" in order that they can be sold for adoption. True or false?

The case for exposing and removing corruption and law-breaking is surely one from which nobody can honourably dissent. The moral case against abortion, except where there is a genuine risk to the health or life of the mother, is also an honourable one; though I do not expect all to share it. Neither case depends on fraudulent evidence and if any evidence is fraudulent, let that fact be known. But let it not be said that evidence is fraudulent unless and until it is proved to be so.

Modern Lourenço Marques highlights Mozambique's dilemma over sanctions against Rhodesia.

Commonwealth may win it diplomatic spurs from European connexion

Some challenging decisions face the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers which opens next Tuesday in Jamaica. The immediate of Britain's vote on the European Community, though that colours the occasion, is not the dominant theme. It is rather that this time the Commonwealth countries have the opportunity to make a mark on international diplomacy, which could prove of lasting value.

As far as the European connexion is concerned, Commonwealth countries as a whole have made it pretty clear that they hope Britain says in their reasons—while accepting, of course, that the final decision is up to the British people—is that inside the Community Britain can exercise great influence on their behalf, can be a friend at court.

So if Britain votes to leave the Community, it will not, paradoxically enough, strengthen the Commonwealth. The result will be that Britain's importance will be reduced in the eyes of the world, because we shall not have any say in Brussels.

No one sees the Commonwealth as an "alternative" to the Community, as Mr Arnold Smith, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has underlined. Nor has anyone plans for building it up, for it is obvious that such a disparate group of countries, 34 in all, could not form any kind of cohesive block. Britain's value lies in its direct proportion to our political and economic strength.

In essence, Britain is no longer the hub, but one of the spokes of the Commonwealth, which is not to say that we cannot achieve a good deal. Indeed, it is precisely because the Commonwealth represents such a mixed bag of countries that progress in those areas which depend on co-operation between black and white, rich and poor, north and south, is possible.

Notable among such places is Rhodesia. The Commonwealth Prime Ministers will have before them a report by the sanctions committee recommending stronger measures against Rhodesia.

The most interesting aspect of this campaign is the suggestion that it is at present no more than that—Commonwealth countries should mobilize international aid to help compensate Mozambique for losing its ports and railway links to Rhodesia.

The change in Southern Africa, in consequence of Portuguese overseas territories gaining their independence, as the sanctions committee notes, is now more important than in Mozambique. Although Rhodesia has kept quiet about its trade through Mozambique, the report estimates that about

The agony and the irony of being Kurdish in 1975

It's hard to be born a Kurd. Kurds are close enough to Europe to have been early influenced by ideas of nationalism; they may even be educated enough to have heard of all those pious phrases issued by the United Nations. The Kurds, though, have the wrong sort of colonialism. It is their colonizers who sit on the de-colonialization committees and who decide to whom the pious phrases apply.

During 13 years of war between the Kurds and the Iraqi government, the United Nations kept silent, preferring to pass over the matter in silence rather than disturb the equilibrium and the sordid verbiage of the Iraqi, Syrian, Turkish Iranian or Soviet delegates. It's not fashionable to be killed by third world governments. The Kurds have chosen the wrong sort of oppressors.

It's confusing to be born a Kurd. If you are born in Turkey—the most likely, statistically speaking—you are told that you are a Turk, not quite a proper Turk, a "mountain Turk". Culturally and racially you must be part of the great Turkish Nation. You are actively discouraged from wearing Kurdish clothes, speaking Kurdish or reading Kurdish. There is a strong folk culture in Turkey and that culture is Turkish, not Kurdish. It's embarrassing to the Turkish and Kurdish languages are not in any way similar. It's better not to be born a Kurd in Turkey.

If you are born a Kurd in Iran—the next most likely statistically speaking—then you can be proud of being an Aryan. Your ruler, the Shah, glories in the title of "Light of the Aryans". You may keep your own language and have your own radio stations. The Iranians approve of Kurdish because, as they say, it's like Persian, their own language. In this case, the scholars agree.

It's best not to inquire too closely into the policies of the "light of the Aryans". At one moment the Kurdish leader in Iraq was the "lion of the Aryans" and the next moment he was a refugee. The "light of the Aryans" had sold the fate of the Kurds in Iraq, whom he had been supplying with massive military equipment, for his legal rights over

five miles of half a waterway. If you are a Kurd in Iran, it's best to enjoy the benefits of the oil boom and become a contented part of that happy Empire.

If you are born in Iraq or Syria, then it's best to be an Arab. Both these governments take their Arab nationalism seriously. Of the two it's better to be an Iraqi than a Syrian Kurd. There has been a lengthy civil war in Iraq so the government knows that as a Kurd you have been trouble some and might become so again. During the war you were granted what was called an "autonomous region". It may not have any power, its members may all be chosen by the government in Baghdad, but still your existence as a Kurd is officially recognized. You can send your children to Kurdish schools, even to a Kurdish university.

In Syria, there are none of these blessings. There, the Kurds live in the desert and not in mountain strongholds, or did until the government discovered they were too close to the national borders. Then it dispersed them forcibly, to keep the borders of the Syrian Arab Republic as Arab as its title.

A Kurd born in the Soviet Union is just plain lucky. There aren't enough Kurds to be any sort of threat. There are just enough of them to be worth studying. The Kurds get the benefit of the liberal Soviet policy towards minority cultures. In three Soviet Universities there is a subject called "Kurdology".

Another advantage of being a Kurd in the Soviet Union is that you can know exactly how many of you there are—39,000 in 1970. If you are in Turkey, you are indeed counted but as a strange statistical anomaly. The number of Kurdish speakers there has been sharply declining, while according to official figures, the population has been rising. What's more, the areas where you are most likely to be born a Kurd in Turkey are precisely those areas where the population has been rising the fastest, as is usual in places where the central government does not bother to build roads or establish factories. In Syria, Iraq and Iran, there is no separation count of Kurdish population.

The plight of the Kurds has been described in a report by that virtuous organization, the Minority Rights Group, in its report *The Kurds* (Martin Short and Anthony McDermott, Minority Rights Group Report No 23 at 49).

It is a pity that the authors of the report do not have more first hand experience of the Kurds and the Kurdish war which they set out to explain but they succeed, in 30 pages, in giving a bird's-eye view of the awfulness of being a Kurd. The report came out too early to cover the debate that followed from the agreement between Iran and Iraq in March. The authors of the report, like everybody else, failed to foresee that with the end of the Shah's support the war in Iraq would collapse.

Nobody outside Iraq knows what is happening there now that the fighting is over. There were 200,000 people in the Badinan region, all desperately short of food, waiting for the Iraqi army to "liberate" them. According to the Iraqi News Agency, they have been welcomed with the army with open arms. As at least half these people had suffered considerable deprivation in order to escape that same army a few months before, a certain cynicism must greet the news agency announcements.

These days, when remote islands of tiny populations are being decolonized, when national rights are taken for granted, it is hard for the Kurds to accept that the chances of an independent Kurdistan are less now than they were in 1918. There are enough of them—some 10 million—now to make a sizeable country. But unless there is some remarkable turn in Middle East politics, it seems unlikely that the four countries who have divided Kurdistan between them can ever let it join again.

Nationalism is all very well and good for those with the chance of achieving their ends. For those without a chance, it is a political altar on which many lives can be sacrificed and nothing achieved.

Andrew Murray

Paying lip-service to reality in the name of a myth

Bernard Levin

Since then, the report declares, "if there has been any movement, it has been backward." And the reason is that the member governments have tended to lose their nerve, each one doing its best to find its own way out of trouble.

What makes the whole business even more wretched is the fact that there is no reason to suppose that the original commitment to economic and monetary union was taken seriously by the governments making it, or that it was meant to be taken seriously by the citizens of their countries. It was taken without the signatures of the governments to which it entailed or even to decide whether they were serious.

The commitment was to the words, not to the reality, and the political—essentially political—will to implement it was almost entirely lacking, and still is. Indeed, the *rapporteur*, Mr J. G. de Larosière, went so far as to say: "The creation of national policies is a pious wish which is hardly ever achieved in practice."

This would be all very well if what is happening, or rather not happening, were based on the failure of the policy of even the most determined to cling to its own advantage and to make no sacrifice for the common good. The truth, however, is that even on the most materialistic construction, the betrayal of the commitment to union can be seen as a betrayal of the entire community and everybody in it. The ninefold duplication of almost every kind of economic activity and responsibility contains an immeasurable amount of waste of resources, which could be gainfully employed, and the waste achieves nothing at all, except to relieve those in a position to take the choice and implement it of the necessity of committing anything but their mouths. As Mr Marshall says: "The member governments of the EEC should make a major political effort to achieve the economic and monetary union to which they are formally pledged, or they should stop talking about it, as Herr Scheel put it, speaking in Paris as the report was being promulgated in

Brussels: "We cannot wait for European union to fall into our laps one day like a ripe fruit. Therefore, institutions and the necessary competence to be able to act, and must do so without delay. She needs a clear construction which serves as basis for common foreign, economic and defence policy. Only a political union can be a friend at court."

And at this moment, when every possible effort is needed to compel the governments of the nations of the EEC to put the bones of reality into the flesh of casual commitment, there are people campaigning in Britain for Britain not merely to refuse her share of the necessary effort, but to run away from the whole enterprise.

These actions are being undertaken, hampered by their inability to act collectively for their collective good, and in Britain there are advocates of a policy of complete withdrawal by one from the policy of even the most determined to cling to its own advantage and to make no sacrifice for the common good. The truth, however, is that even on the most materialistic construction, the betrayal of the commitment to union can be seen as a betrayal of the entire community and everybody in it. The ninefold duplication of almost every kind of economic activity and responsibility contains an immeasurable amount of waste of resources, which could be gainfully employed, and the waste achieves nothing at all, except to relieve those in a position to take the choice and implement it of the necessity of committing anything but their mouths. As Mr Marshall says: "The member governments of the EEC should make a major political effort to achieve the economic and monetary union to which they are formally pledged, or they should stop talking about it, as Herr Scheel put it, speaking in Paris as the report was being promulgated in

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The Chancellor in his Budget speech was just used to the Government and for industry calling on the workers to restrain wage demands in the national interest. Have these repeated appeals for restraint been having any greater effect than previous ones. All the 52 committee members are directly involved, as shop steward or conveyor, in recurrent pay negotiations. They are a hard-bitten bunch, proud of their power in a union which Reg Birch, the Maoist executive member, called "the most noble piece of democratic centralism ever addressed to a working class."

There are few better places to discover whether the fresh appeals for restraint are having any greater effect than previous ones. All the 52 committee members are directly involved, as shop steward or conveyor, in recurrent pay negotiations. They are a hard-bitten bunch, proud of their power in a union which Reg Birch, the Maoist executive member, called "the most noble piece of democratic centralism ever addressed to a working class."

Jimmy Reid and Jimmy Airle, co-leaders of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders work-in, are delegates for the Clydeside area. On Monday night Reid was holding court in a bar with reporters and complaining that the rising cost of living had forced his wife to take a part-time job.

According to Reid, workers do not accept that their pay increases cause inflation. Men in the shipyards were sitting down and working out that the Budget would cost them an extra £6 to £8 a week, as soon as food subsidies ended and with the rent freeze off.

"The lads get to work and they say (here he clapped his hands and rubbed them together

The Times Diary

Workers ignore Healey's pleading

John Byrne works at Rolls-Royce's Kilburn factory where the workers are now asking for a social contract-breaking £12 rise. He thought the working class might be prepared to restrain pay demands if they could see prices going down, or being held stable.

The Budget and the general financial climate had clearly affected Clyfford Arrowsmith, from Portsmouth. He asked for £5 for his comments, which are therefore lost to posterity.

Biking
The last time I rode a bicycle across Brooklyn Bridge, the middle of the night (name dropping again). Therefore, before accepting the invitation of Hira-Bike, a new bicycle hire firm, to race from Fleet Street to Kensington, I got into condition by walking to Fleet Street from the Horse Guards.

Before the race began, the dozen or so contestants sipped champagne with studied moderation, and I learnt with conviction that my chance of being ruined by a late change in the route. Instead of cycling all the way, we were to be taken in hire cars to The Mall, and pedal from there. Now stamina is my forte, and the

new route was little more than a detour.

After equipping the male contestants with string for their trousers (there being a shortage of bicycle clips), they started singly, possibly spurred on by each other. They noted the time each of us departed.

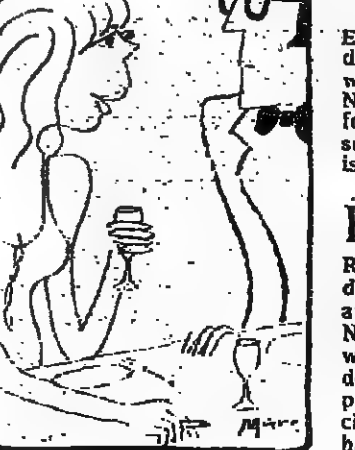
In spite of my training walk, my thighs began to ache as I passed Clarence House, and they started to ache terribly up Constitution Hill. Negotiating the Buckingham Palace roundabout was easier than I had anticipated, but Hyde Park Corner was the most fearsome hurdle.

The foolhardy, mainly radio reporters, barged straight into it, taking on the traffic as though they were themselves in cars. The most timid carried their bikes into the underpass, many of them emerging at the wrong exit and losing precious minutes. It was my habit, took the moderate middle way, pushing the bike across Grosvenor Place and pedalling on from there.

The recommended route was down Cromwell Road because, the organizers said, there was a steady gradient up Kensington Gore, which we probably could not manage. (Public relations men believe that all reporters are too unfit to manage all but the finest steps from one free drink to the next.)

However, the more competitive of us took the shorter, steeper route, and it was just opposite Hyde Park Barracks that I was overtaken by a group of radio reporters, who had started later than me, and I knew my chance was lost.

"Tell me, Simon, could Kissinger win the Nobel Peace Prize twice?"



It was not as frightening as I expected and I might soon get a bicycle of my own. Motorists were surprisingly accommodated.

Faith
The throng of organizations declaring themselves on the European Economic Community was joined yesterday by "Christians for Europe". The Bishop of Leicester, Anglican emissary to Brussels, is chairman of a group which, under Lord Longford, Shirley Williams and James Prior. It is being organized by John Selwyn

Gummer, the former Conservative MP for Lewisham.

The Bishop, who goes Brussels twice a year, said the EEC promoted peace, it could help reunite Reformation Christendom, aid the third world.

Homeless
Reporters in no fixed abode. The first day of annual conference of National Union of Journalists was a washout because the delegates would not cross picket line operated by clerics on strike at Cardiff hall, the conference.

After a frantic search the homeless were slower deliberate was today in a at the Cardiff Centre hotel.

But they were soon out by the "fire brigade" said there were too many inflammatory people in room and that journalists be trampled in the rush to break another conference was found the lecture of the national museum in of the uncertain future of the national museum in NUJ, somewhere in Cardiff.

David Span
Diplomatic Correspondent

Special Report to mark the publication of the first annual statement of the Manpower Services Commission

Jobs for the future

1,000-a-year retraining scheme would combat recession and unemployment

Intervention and the Manpower Services Commission's first annual statement, which will be published today, will set out the government's policy on unemployment and the need for a retraining scheme to combat recession and unemployment.

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The TUC has asked for it to be given immediate approval with an initial capital of £20m which would create jobs for 15,000 people. If sufficient projects were put forward, this first injection of capital could be doubled.

Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the GMWU and a member of the TUC's six-man team on the National Economic Development Council, thinks that at a time of rising unemployment it is right to take a new, hard look at the instruments of manpower planning. The MSC, he suggests, should be given more powers of direction and coordination. "The commission should be used not just as an administrative tool and a source of information and expertise, but as a positive means of intervention in the labour market."

He wants a three-point programme of action. First, MSC needs to expand its research role and its job-placing services and its various strands of its activity need to be brought more closely together, particularly at local level. Second, MSC should be given resources and funds to offset the short-term effects of the economic recession in industries and areas badly hit by actual or threatened unemployment.

This might be done by "holding operations"—assisting firms faced with liquidation through the TUC's ideas for employment subsidies while the longer-term needs for public support from the Department of Industry and the National Enterprise Board are examined. "This would not necessarily be an extra cost to the exchequer since the subsidy may approximate to the unemployment benefit otherwise due." Another method would be job creation on the lines already proposed by the commission.

Third, Mr Basnett would like to see the commission working closely with the forthcoming National Enterprise Board and the Department of Industry to give effect to the Government's plans for industrial planning and investment strategy.

The Confederation of British Industry joined with the TUC in 1973 in welcoming the establishment of the commission as a means of coordinating the employment and training services under a body representative of all interests in industry.

The employers' reaction to "work creation" and similar ideas might have been expected to be a little more cool. But a CBI spokesman said: "From the day of the commission's first meeting all parties agreed on the need for contingency planning to meet conditions of rising unemployment."

The package of proposals now being studied by ministers are more extensive than any which have gone before. The need is not only to help the unemployed but to seek to break the traditional pattern under which past economic recoveries have been hampered by shortages of trained manpower.

It is a significant development when the TUC and the CBI can agree on something. The commission, the CBI adds, needs to develop an authoritative and independent influence on manpower policy. "It will need to build up the resources, regionally and nationally, to command public respect for its views, for the manpower intelligence work on which they are based, and to seek to set the framework for a comprehensive national policy."



Barnes, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, visits the Road Transport Industry Training Board High Ercall, Shropshire.

time aims still important

The MSC's general criticism of the different strands of post-war policy is clear. "We hope to see a new policy which takes account of the needs of the service industries, and which is more flexible than the previous policy," the report says.

Having taken stock of its functions, the commission argues that its role should be widened if the Government is to meet the needs of the service industries. The report says that the MSC should be given a more active role in the development of a general manpower strategy, which will only be feasible if the commission becomes an authoritative centre for manpower intelligence. The subject has suffered from a piecemeal and fragmented approach in the past, and it now needs to be tackled in a coordinated and strategic way, the report says.

It may be well worth producing a regular manpower report, MSC adds, which would bring together all the existing information on labour market trends and provide a comprehensive and synoptic review of manpower problems and policies. Activities of this sort could provide a sound basis on which to develop an active manpower policy on the Swedish model.

The commission lists points that need to be satisfied for the United Kingdom to have a comprehensive manpower policy: a strong central authority responsible for the execution of manpower aspects of fiscal, economic and industrial policies; full participation of all interests, including employers and unions in the national and local work of the authority; a good employment service; good training and retraining services; effective regional policies and measures to help geographical mobility of workers; safeguard and help for workers at a disadvantage in the labour market; selective measures to counteract cyclical fluctuations that would otherwise lead to manpower imbalances; "appropriate financial and other help" for workers affected by change and other foreseeable developments; measures to ensure that public and enterprise manpower policies do not conflict.

"We are convinced that only by a radical extension of the present role and responsibilities of the commission, beyond those envisaged by the 1973 Employment and Training Act, can a new dynamic be given to the development of manpower policies in this country," the report concludes.

The Chancellor has just given £50m to the MSC.

"... In recent months, the Secretary of State for Employment and I have had the benefit of much valuable advice from the Commission, supported by its Agencies. I propose to allocate an additional £20m in 1975-76 and £30m in 1976-77 to the Manpower Services Commission for the purposes of strengthening and accelerating the growth of the training programmes of industry and of the Training Services Agency; introducing special measures of training for the unemployed; improving the efficiency of the Employment Service Agency and providing additional incentives for job mobility. This will be on top of the substantial development already planned in the programmes for which the Commission are responsible..."

The Rt. Hon. Denis Healey, MP,
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Budget statement April 15th, 1975.

Who's the MSC?

Set up in January, 1974, the Manpower Services Commission is a body representing the TUC, CBI, local authorities and education interests. It is collectively responsible for running and developing the public manpower services and ensuring that they meet the needs of those who use them.

If you want to know more about the Manpower Services Commission send off for a copy of our first Annual Report.

Manpower Services Commission, Stratton House, Stratton Street, Piccadilly, London W1X 6AS.

THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION

Modern techniques dispel old dole atmosphere

The daunting sight of the dole queue stretching away from the door of the labour exchange has been familiar to many seeking the help of the public employment service since it was set up 65 years ago. It is hard to think of anything more dispiriting to the man or woman just made redundant or looking for a change of job.

From their establishment at the beginning of the century, labour exchanges were intended to have a positive role, to be concerned with bringing together workers seeking new jobs and employers seeking new workers. Yet, despite the renewed emphasis placed on that aspect of their work in the 1944 White Paper, they inevitably became associated in the minds of many people with unemployment.

By the mid-1960s the dole queue image was firmly entrenched, reinforced by the uninspiring official buildings which housed many of the country's 1,000 employment offices. It was widely acknowledged that most of the 7,000 people who staffed them were working with dedication, but there was also a growing feeling inside and outside the service that their work was not enough.

Disatisfaction with the way the employment service was operating was clearly expressed in the 1971 government document *People and Jobs*, which was the culmination of a hard look at the service and the reasons for its failure.

The document said: "Employers do not inform

the service of all their vacancies and some hardly use it at all. During the past five years, for example, workers registering for jobs have normally outnumbered notified vacancies by more than two to one. Thus, whereas the service fills more than two in three vacancies, it places only about one in three of those who register.

"The task facing the service is to break out of a situation where employers do not use it because they doubt—sometimes rightly—whether it has suitable people on its books, and where workers seeking jobs do not visit the local employment office because the vacancies they want are not notified by the employer."

People and jobs was widely supported in its analysis of the problems and the solutions it put forward. Work on it had begun during the life of the 1966-70 Labour government with a programme of research in Britain and overseas, to examine the experience of countries, such as those in Scandinavia, whose employment services had a different character. It was carried on under the Conservatives and was given the backing of the TUC and the Confederation of British Industry.

The document identified two functions for the public employment service: an economic one in helping to get the right people in the right jobs as quickly as possible; and a social one in helping workers who found special difficulties in getting or keeping satisfactory jobs.

Employers had to be convinced that it was worth informing the service of vacancies. Although in the mid-sixties about two million jobs were notified each year, that was only a fifth of the total job changes in Britain. The immediate target was to double that number.

The way to go about it was a new management structure to have overall responsibility for employment and the freedom to create a new service with a new image, a new form of administration, separate from the rest of the government, and a new network of offices, which by the way they operated, the way they looked, their location in the heart of shopping centres and their trained staff, would encourage people to go to them for jobs.

In short: the complete modernization of the employment service from top to bottom. At the top, new management came into being with the Manpower Services Commission, set up last year as a policy making co-ordinating body with members from the TUC, CBI and local authorities. Its two executive arms were the Employment Service Agency and the Training Services Agency.

The ESA took over the larger share of the job modernization task, which was already well under way. As a pilot scheme it was decided to update the Professional and Executive Register which, with 45 offices and 600 staff, had been attempting to handle professional, technical and managerial vacancies in the face of

of a prejudice on the part of employers against the public service for anything but manual jobs.

It was renamed Professional and Executive Recruitment, given new and attractive offices, computerization, microfilming and other modern techniques.

One immediate innovation was that PER started charging fees to employers, something commercial agencies did, but which was new to government services. Employers pay between 7 and 10 per cent of the annual salary of the job they want filled and enough of them were prepared to do so to give an income from fees of £2m in 1973-74.

PER has quickly established itself as the leading agency for higher-paid professional staff. It is the only agency giving a truly national service and none of its private rivals can compete with a network of 38 offices and a register of job candidates now at 73,000.

Placings during 1974 were 8,500, but fell 1,500 short of the target, largely due to the three-day week and the decline in the economy according to Mr Geoffrey Crosby, PER's director. He intends to go on taking a larger share of the job modernization task, which was already well under way.

As a pilot scheme it was decided to update the Professional and Executive Register which, with 45 offices and 600 staff, had been attempting to handle professional, technical and managerial vacancies in the face of

redundant to go to their local public employment agency what PER has to do. Mr Crosby adds, is to persuade them to turn to the same services when they have vacancies to fill. His way of going about it is to make PER as efficient as possible as a means of filling a job with the right candidate.

The details of qualifications, experience and preferences of each man or woman who approaches PER are matched by the computer and then by an experienced counsellor to the list of vacant jobs.

Similarly every net vacancy notified to PER is matched with the candidate register to find suitable applicants. What PER can not do is to create jobs in a time of economic depression. As an example, Mr Crosby cites the 5,000 marketing managers who have asked PER to find them new jobs. Only 250 such vacancies have been notified.

To give candidates confidence that opportunities are not being withheld from them and perhaps in some cases to stimulate them into thinking about jobs which might otherwise have occurred to them, every person coming to PER is free to scan the whole range of jobs notified and recorded on microfilm.

That element of self-selection is used more in the new jobcentres, which are slowly replacing the old labour exchanges.

R.P.

the maintenance work on board BP's North Sea drilling platform Seaquest.

valries of North Sea boom

per Vichoye
Correspondent

covery and exploitation of offshore oil and gas to great changes in the market for labour in the North Sea area.

New workers are into the most costly of work in the building platforms and equipment needed to he all ashore but it

that over the next few years there will be a shortage in all occupations associated with oil and gas.

well as attracting from outside the area has led to workers in the North Sea area.

into better-paid jobs new industries. It is reported by the Manpower Services Commission that in some indigenous industries

med by loss of labour in the North Sea area.

a bid to attract workers in activity, however, it would not have a jobs to return to, "reducing unemployment."

e longer term, the says, the situation is clear. Demand and of labour, training and regional and y problems should be under constant

under national and re activity has four surveying, exploration, production and production

ance—each requiring numbers of specialized Survey work will more geophysicists. tion drilling will re-

more geologists and and inexperienced to alternate hours of archy of jobs on the

ters will also be for pipe-laying, con- and maintenance. ver, the demand for work offshore has

a drastically in years, and will co- increase at least 50, after which there is a slight easing.

f those working offe outside Scotland alternate hours of sea, with periods of ave, using a network skilled trades between now and 1976. Though forecasts after this date are neces-

sarily tentative, only a slight

grammes under close scrutiny

ed from facing page effect. In 1972, 200 people received training £4.5m, in the 2 year the same of money was spent aid to 15,200.

Up to this January ber of people bene- from the scheme was

is designed to help employed those ed with redundancy ve been offered or und for themselves which necessitates moving away from

dates have to fulfil conditions before e eligible to ensure y are genuinely up- find work in their as and that they in- move to a job in a area and make a out home there who wish to move rily until work be- available in their areas can also be

scheme is not open a who will earn more 1,500 a year in their obs, or to people on their own taking up seasonal ment or merely trans- while still in the ment of the same v.

e who are approved p can get settling-in and, in special circum- free fares.

those workers who to new areas while

nationally rather than locally. At present there are four steel jacks, fabrication yards in operation which have labour forces of between 1,000 and 2,000 men, depending on the phase of construction and on the amount of work contracted. The main skills involved are welding, plating, fabricating, rigging and scaffolding.

Concrete platform fabrication draws mainly on workers with civil engineering construction skills—joiners and steel fixers—but also use some metal work-

ing tradesmen and other site workers. A typical labour force might be 600 for a single construction. Modules again require labour forces highly skilled in the steel working trades, with 400 to 600 men in a typical build-

ing yard. Refineries, pipeline terminals and processing plants are capital rather than labour intensive. However, the Sul-

on Voe complex, in the Shetlands, may provide as many as 1,000 jobs. If the oil plan is implemented,

A high level of total demand for platform construction can be expected throughout the latter part of the decade and into the 1980s.

Because its operators can recruit their labour force nationally and fly workers in from all over the country for their tours of duty, the offshore side of the North Sea development has not been forced to compete with established Scottish industries for manpower. Platform and module construction yards and other associated onshore industries have, on the other hand, to recruit many of their workers from local industries.

The report says the main overlaps with steel jackets and module manufacture skills are in the shipbuilding industry, and in mechanical and electrical engineering construction.

MESEC. The shipbuilding industry is likely to maintain its requirements over the next few years.

MESEC is expecting a considerable national expansion in the oil sector, based on a commitment of approximately 16,000 men in the critical skilled trades between now and 1976. Though forecasts after this date are necessarily tentative, only a slight

falling off in activity is expected before 1980.

The report discloses that between 1970 and 1974 the number of manual workers in the mechanical and electrical engineering and construction industries fell from 50,000 to 25,000 and if many of the men who had left the industry could be induced to return it could help to solve the problem in this area.

Nevertheless, the report says, in the aggregate a considerable training requirement exists, especially for the steel skills needed for jacket and module fabrication, shipbuilding and MESEC.

Of all regions in Britain, North-east England will have the biggest absolute increase in manpower requirement in the next two years. The pressure on the metal-working skills will be intense—an increase of at least 10,000, compared with 2,000 at present unemployed. On the other hand, with its long tradition of heavy engineering, MESEC, this region may be best able to cope with the problem.

Migration of workers from outside the east coast of Scotland has been hit by the lack of housing. Efforts to increase the number of new houses available have been hampered by severe shortages of labour in the building industry where large numbers of men have moved into jobs associated with the North Sea development.

The report concludes that a training programme needs to be devised to meet these shortfalls at national and local level. The programme for offshore activities is based on the recommendations of the report on education training for offshore developments by a working party led by the Training Services Agency in November 1973.

These include one-year post-graduate courses in petroleum engineering at two universities, with a course in petroleum geology at a third. A drilling technology centre, involving practical experience on a land-based rig, has been recommended for Livingston in Scotland. An advanced training centre for deep diving in north-west Scotland has also been recommended.

skills, where there has been a shortage of labour since the end of the war, but others are offered in a wide range of trades. The men who take them are usually in their late twenties.

The courses are held in one of the 53 skill centres, previously known as government training centres, and can last for a month to three years, although the average is about six months. The emphasis is deliberately on practical experience and the centres are made to look and feel like the working environment the trainees will face when they get jobs.

Most women take courses in secretarial, commercial or managerial skills, held in colleges of further education, where they may join existing classes, or if there is enough of them, make up classes of their own. The courses are most popular with women wishing to return to work after their families have grown up.

All courses are full-time and trainees are paid tax free allowances at a rate £5 above employment benefit level while they attend. They may also be able to claim travelling allowances, free meals and credits for national insurance contributions.

In Tons' first year of operation 29,000 people took courses, but by last year the figure had risen to 45,000 and the service has set a target of 60,000 for this year and 100,000 by 1980.

Those who are already judged to have a useful skill. Although many of the people who take advantage of its courses feel they have missed out on training, perhaps by turning down an apprenticeship after leaving school, they are also open to men and women who want to change their trades, or who think they are capable of achieving higher qualifications.

Courses for men are mainly in the engineering and construction industry

Just how much can the ESA do?

A lot more than you probably realise. It's a comprehensive range of employment services within the Manpower Services Commission.

At straight employment level there's the Employment Office, a fast recruitment service dealing with jobs in Commerce and Industry.

There are special facilities for Nursing and Hotels and Catering and help for disabled people.

The ESA has created an entirely new concept through its Jobcentres, the spearhead of its reorganisation programme.

Many Jobcentre features such as specialist employment advisers and self-service are now available at most Employment Offices.

PER (Professional and Executive Recruitment) is a separately managed part of the Agency.

Beyond that, which may already be a surprise, ESA deals with members of H.M. Services when they turn their skills to civilian use.

It helps in the movement and settlement of workers from one area to another, and can advise on the current local labour market potential.

It sets up redundancy Job Teams. And in the case of mass redundancy opens offices on the employers' premises, with their permission, to speed up the operation.

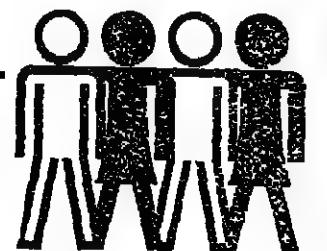
The Local Employment Offices and Jobcentres can arrange free occupational guidance assessment. And they put people in touch with the Training Schemes of the Training Services Agency.

It has Employment Rehabilitation Centres to help people to get back their confidence after a period away from work due to illness, accident, or other causes.

And that's still not all the ESA can do.

For further details contact your local Jobcentre or Employment Office.

THE
EMPLOYMENT
SERVICE
AGENCY



An executive arm of the Manpower Services Commission.

Private agencies go beyond secretarial work to supply wide range of skills

Patricia Tisdall

Contrary to some gloomy predictions, growing unemployment does not appear to have seriously upset the private employment agencies. They still play an important part in recruitment, particularly for typists and secretaries.

What the economic recession has meant is that both employers and agencies can be more selective. The more reputable companies see that as an advantage, compared with the staff-hungry

days of a year or so ago when almost any office worker, however inexperienced, was virtually guaranteed a job.

Private employment agencies do not operate only in the secretarial sector, though. There are "very few" although it is their biggest area where an agency can

field. There are many firms not be of value in finding a new job. The federation publishes a booklet listing the numerous specialist agencies.

Some of the big secretarial agencies have extended into these, including Alfred Marks. Mr Bernard Marks, the chairman, says that "people like to talk to experts, to others who really know the field, when they change jobs". His firm has about a dozen specialist sections, which include the supply of temporary industrial contract labour, a technical agency providing drawing office personnel and qualified engineers, and a nursing agency.

Some of the specialist areas of recruitment have felt the effects of general unemployment to a much greater extent than the secretarial sector. Mr Marks estimates that unemployment would have to reach nearly two million to have any serious effect on secretarial demand.

Various surveys exist, and their findings are sometimes hotly contested. But one, conducted by an independent company, the Harris Poll Survey, shows that 45 per cent of secretaries and typists in London found their jobs through private employment agencies. Other reports say that about 60 per cent of all jobs offered in the greater London area

and about 50 per cent of vacancies in the larger provincial cities are dealt with by the private agencies.

The Government's general household survey of 1973, however, shows that 11.1 per cent of intermediate and junior non-manual jobs were obtained through private agencies against 7.5 per cent obtained through the employment exchanges. Advertisements accounted for 33.1 per cent of placements and a direct approach to employers for 20.5 per cent.



Nevertheless, however the figures are taken, private agencies are clearly in demand from employers who pay the fee and from the applicants who flock to their doors in search of a new job.

The large agencies, which include the Brook Street Bureau and Reed Executive as well as Alfred Marks, also believe that they offer a useful educational function both for employers and employees. Alfred Marks publishes regular statistical information on salaries and job trends which most personnel specialists find extremely useful.

One study published earlier this year examined the personal attitudes of employers towards their secretaries. It found, for example, that 87 per cent of prospective employers placed "personality" high on their priority list. Phys-

ical attractiveness, "good figure" and "practising" were rated less than a 10 per cent vote.

Heading the list of attributes objected to were body odour, bad grooming and bad speech. First reactions are important: 92 per cent of employers said their final decision was sometimes or always affected by their initial impression.

That sort of research is important since it can save considerable time and wasted effort. How often do employers specify "non-smokers only", for example, when writing out a job specification? Equally, how many job-seekers would turn up for interviews scruffily turned out if they appreciated how important first impressions were?

Private employment agencies such as the above continue to attract many people seeking jobs and are widely used by employers.

Salaries and prices index

The way that average office salaries have moved in relation to the cost of living is shown in the table below.

	Average Salary* (Central London)	Rise each year %	Retail prices index (October 1967=100)	Rise each year %
	£ a week	%		%
October 1967	13.75	—	100	—
October 1968	15	9.1	105.8	5.8
October 1969	16	6.7	111.5	5.4
October 1970	18	12.5	119.7	7.4
October 1971	19.75	9.7	130.9	9.4
October 1972	22	13.9	141.2	7.9
October 1973	26.75	21.6	155.1	9.8
October 1974	31.75	18.7	181.7	17.2

Source: Alfred Marks Bureau * as published in the Survey of Secretarial and Clerical Salaries in the January of each year.

more than 26 per cent do second by luring girls away from offices with offers of high wages—a charge which the agencies deny.

The new service being created by the Government for the recruitment of executive secretaries under the Manpower Services Commission will not touch temporary staff, because of those criticisms. It will also be confined to jobs which embrace the full range of secretarial functions, which go beyond merely a shorthand or audio-typing of shorthand or audio-typing. It will therefore provide little competition to the private agencies.

You could have letters behind your name.

T.S.A., I.T.Bs., T.W.I., T.O.P.S.

Training Services Agency (TSA). Has three aims. To help, through training, to secure the efficiency and effective performance of the country's manpower.

To help individuals, through training, to fulfil the needs and aspirations they have for their own employment. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of training.

Industry Training Boards (ITBs) have been doing a great job for British industry for many years. Since April 1st they have entered into a new and powerful partnership with the TSA.

If you are in management and need advice or help on training turn to your Industry Training Board.

There is an Industry Training Board for each of the following: Air Transport and Travel; Carpet Industry; Ceramics, Glass and Mineral Products; Chemical and Allied Products; Clothing and Allied Products; Construction; Cotton and Allied Textiles; Distributive; Engineering; Food, Drink and Tobacco; Footwear, Leather and Fur Skin; Foundry Industry Training Committee; Furniture and Timber; Hotel and Catering; Iron and Steel; Knitting, Lace and Net; Man-made Fibres Producing Industry; Paper and Paper Products; Petroleum; Printing and Publishing; Road Transport; Rubber and Plastics Processing; Shipbuilding; Wool, Jute and Flax.

Training Within Industry (TWI). This service provides a large range of courses for supervisors together with training for operator/instructors and clerk/instructors.

Firms can send representatives to be trained to put on TWI courses for supervisors within their own premises. The service is free to firms in assisted areas; a fee is charged elsewhere.

Training Opportunities Scheme (TOPS). Many men and women get the training they need from their employers; others don't. The Training Opportunities Scheme is run for them.

Through TOPS, anyone aged 19 or over who is not employed or is willing to give up his or her job may train in a wide range of occupations from engineering to management, by applying through Jobcentres, Employment Offices or direct to the TSA.

All of which really sums up the advantages of having any of these letters behind you.

For further details write to The Marketing Manager, TSA Marketing Department (1), 168 Regent Street, London W1R 6DE.

Training
Services Agency

An executive arm of the Manpower Services Commission.

New start for the redundant

by Alan Hamilton

There is now every possibility that the long-feared figure of one million unemployed will be reached next winter, unless there is a big change in the economic climate of the entire capitalist world. Recent government measures, chiefly through the Industry Act, aimed at preserving and creating jobs, may do no more than pour cupfuls of water on a forest fire.

With an unacceptably high unemployment level already upon us, and considerably worse to come, much effort is being directed towards accepting the inevitable and finding ways of alleviating the hardship it causes, both on a personal and a national level.

Since it was set up to take over the employment and training functions of the Department of Employment, the Manpower Services Commission has been charged, apart from its normal routine functions, with preparing contingency plans to deal with major unemployment. Some measures are already in operation and, as the year progresses, more and more of the commission's energies will have to be spent in looking after the growing army of the redundant.

As its present functions do not include the actual creation of new jobs or the retention of existing ones, the MSC must concentrate first on ensuring that unemployed workers remain unemployed for as short a time as possible, and second on trying to turn a period of enforced redundancy to good account.

Its two principal weapons in the fight are a massive retraining programme and an arsenal of incentives to persuade the unemployed to move to where the work is.

Industrial training is a function which, in normal times, is generally carried out by employers. But in times of recession employers will shed their training responsibilities because they cannot afford the facilities and cannot offer work to the people they have trained. Government must then move in to take up the slack and to ensure that, when times become better, industry is not bereft of properly trained labour. Training was given a £50m boost in the Budget, allowing an extra 30,000 places to be created in Government training schemes during the coming year.

But officials of the Training Services Agency, one of the MSC's two executive arms, meet considerable resistance in their efforts to educate workers of all kinds, whatever the colour of their collar, in the benefits of training, particularly of retraining for a second career.

In the words of one senior MSC official: "Training is

still widely regarded as something for one-legged, chaps and ex-army regulars. Only now, with unemployment at a very high level, are people beginning to recognize its value." That they are "training" for unemployment, that their spell at a government skill centre or a college of further education will simply end with a return to the dole queue, is the major reservation of those whom the MSC seeks to assist.

When hard-pressed employers begin to shed their traditional training responsibilities, and government takes over, it has three main avenues at its disposal: skill centres, colleges of further education, and employers' own establishments which, in times of economic stringency, are frequently severely under-used.

Recently the MSC, through the various industrial training boards which it administers, has tried a system of apprentice-award schemes in an effort to help young people whose lack of any particular skill would make them prime candidates for the dole queue. But it is now generally admitted that such measures were too little and too late.

Now the emphasis is on the Training Opportunities Scheme, through which the unemployed can learn a wide variety of trades and be paid while learning. The scheme has scored notable successes in at least two recent major redundancy situations: when British Steel closed its Llanmihanol works, a quarter of the redundant labour force applied for TOPS retraining, and more recently, one third of the 1,100 workers made redundant by the Imperial Typewriters closure at Leicester made similar applications.

Whether those who undergo TOPS retraining will have jobs to go to at the end of their courses is another matter, but the Training Services Agency is optimistic and believes that even in times of very high unemployment the labour market continues to turn over at a considerable rate.

But even skilled workers, be they captain, labourer, or senior manager, can sometimes experience great difficulty in finding new work in their own localities. So a range of financial incentives are available to encourage workers to move to where the work is, whether or not they take their families with them.

Are such measures enough in times of serious unemployment, considering that neither intensive training nor labour mobility actually create work? Many believe that they are not, and that the function of the MSC should be fundamentally changed to include a crash programme of job creation.

The "commis" is well aware that its brief may not be sufficient to meet its needs. Last year it even commissioned an independent study of its own plans, which concluded that a new-style job creation programme, coupled with intensive training, was the best answer to a major unemployment problem.

Such ideas are far from new. Franklin D. Roosevelt thought of it during the thirties and the Tennessee Valley Authority and many other major public works in the United States bear testimony to his New Deal. But this country's bank balance is shaky enough to require something a little less grandiose.

Much attention is being given to a current Canadian concept known as the Local Initiatives Programme. For a cost of \$150m, the Canadian Government created 92,500 jobs of varying durations by approving 5,700 local community projects ranging from bridge building to advance bureaux. The only condition was that the schemes should be non-profit-making and that their participants should be unemployed.

Something of the same kind already exists in Britain but on a small scale. Community Industry was started in 1972 with a grant of £500,000, and provides jobs for about 2,000 young people on projects ranging from property repairs to restoring a canal barge for an industrial museum. To be a real answer to a crisis, however, the scheme would have to cope with about 220,000 young people at any one time.

Such schemes are clearly beneficial, especially if they can be used to teach skills which can be put to use in a later, more permanent job. But they are bound to be confined to small projects, as there is little scope at present for local authorities to find the money to advance major public works schemes.

But job creation is a function more likely to be left to the wide-ranging powers of the Industry Act rather than to the MSC. It surely must be better to keep a man in his existing, economically productive job than to have to put him to sleep in an adventure playground, or other emergency activities which smack of charity and do-gooding, and which are always liable to undermine confidence and self-respect.

Self-respect, however, can be undermined most easily by long periods of total unemployment; and average periods of redundancy are becoming longer as well as more frequent. Intensive training schemes operated by the MSC, the organizers hope, will preserve at least the will to work which can so easily be destroyed after a long period on the dole.



The Government Training Centre at Perivale, Middlesex, one of more than 50 set up to train unskilled workers and retrain those facing redundancy in declining industries. Courses in more than 50 trades are available.



complete cessation of American "interference in South Vietnam's internal affairs". This seems a somewhat unnecessary demand when it appears that Washington's only remaining objective in South Vietnam is to rescue its own nationals and as many as possible of its friends in the days remaining before the final collapse. But apparently the communists consider that the new government ("the present clique") is nothing more than a continuation of the Thieu regime under another name, and therefore a priori "in Washington's pay".

It presumably follows from this that the United States will be deemed to be still interfering in South Vietnam so long as anybody who is or has been associated with President Thieu remains in power. It is other words, the Americans can't stop intervening, in Communist eyes, by taking positive action to reverse the effects of their previous interventions and to bring to power a government drawn from the former opposition.

The communists will then be able to claim that they captured Saigon not by a military victory but by an insurrection of "popular forces" from within. Such a scenario would perhaps be flattering for the people of Saigon. But most of them would no doubt prefer to dispense with such spurious glory and get the whole sordid business over with.

Only the communists should be humane enough to grant them that even if it means prolonging the existence of the Ruong government for a few days or weeks.

has amended the Bill to restore the provisions of the Owen Bill, but there is a suggestion that the Government may try to have the amendments removed in the Commons because of their implications for manpower and resources. Such an attempt should probably be resisted. It is difficult to see how the principle of the primacy of the child's welfare can be properly applied if the child is not allowed a reasonable opportunity for separate legal representation.

The proposal in the Justice report for a children's ombudsman raises much wider issues. The report suggests that the ombudsman should be a lawyer with special qualifications in child care work. He would have extensive responsibilities, as a social recourse for the child who considers himself ill-treated," as the custodian of children of single or separated parents on the death of these parents, as the provider of legal representation of children, among others. These responsibilities are almost certainly too wide and too varied. The role of the lawyer and that of the social worker should be kept separate and not confused. However the most powerful objection to the idea of a children's ombudsman is the extra and perhaps excessive manpower and resources that would be required. There is need for the separate legal representation of minors to be more widely accepted, but the creation of a children's ombudsman is probably a case of too much, too soon.

of spending another person to pay money harasses the debtor by making demands calculated to subject the debtor or members of his household to alarm or distress.

Is it proper for the Home Office to do so, to hear the wind of criminal justice and itself to arrogate the rule of law?

Yours faithfully,
D. HERBERT JONES,
17 St Stephens Avenue,
Hertfordshire,
St Albans,
April 18.

Amateur operatics

From Sir Leslie Scargman

Sir, Last week the Bridgnorth Amateur Operatic Society put on *Pink Champagne* at Bridgnorth. Some may ask—why not *Fledgeling* itself? To which the answer is, that as the grass roots of culture it is wise to concentrate upon use of your chorus.

During the week this local society displayed musical and acting talent of a high order. All was done by gifted and enthusiastic amateurs living and around Bridgnorth.

As English and Welsh, for we are in border country have a natural flair for entertaining themselves; and they can do it with taste as well as gusto. Is not amateur endeavour of this quality worthy of help from central public funds (the Arts Council, the theatre permits) the nucleus of the marching band? Something must be done, for local parishes, public and private, are stretched and soon may not be able to cover all the cost.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE SCARMAN,
77 Cadogan Square, SW1
April 21.

Poets in Ulster

From Mr Padraig Fiacc

Sir, In your Correspondence here in Belfast, Robert Flack's article on "Row poets put Northern Ireland's war time words" (*The Times*, March 28), he states that "there are one few Protestant poets." There are over 40 Protestant poets in our

From Sir Leslie Scarpman
 Sir, Last week the Bridgmont Amateur Operatic Society put on *Pink Champagne* at Bridgmont. Some may say why not *Heddermas* instead? Well, the answer is that in the press rooms of culture it is wise to concentrate upon use of your chorons.

During the week this local society displayed musical and acting talent of a high order. All was done by English and Welsh amateurs. The English and Welsh, for we are in border country have a natural flair for entertaining themselves; and they can do it with taste as well as gusto. Is not amateur endeavour of this quality worthy of help from central public funds (the Arts Council, if its charges permit) to buy the device of the marching band?

Some might be done, for local private, public and private are stretched and soon may not be able to cover all the cost.

Yours faithfully,
 LESLIE SCARPMAN
 17 Cadogan Square, SW1
 April 24.

From Mr. Padraic Fiacc
Sir, In your Correspondent here in
Belfast, Robert Fisk's article on
"How poets put Northern Ireland's
war into words" (The Times, March
29), he states that "there are too
few Protestant poets". There are
over 40 Protestant poets in our

years and this in spite of losing 6 per cent of the labour force and 3,000 acres each year over the period.

The wealth tax proposals, however, must mean a withdrawal of capital from the agricultural industry just when injections of capital are essential for the expansion asked for by the Government. A farmer has to pay a tax on the asset value for his land but does not have to pay the tax on the value of his non-liquid assets; rather it is on the yearly profitability of his farming operations on which he sets his standard of life and his ability to expand must depend on the size of the first two-thirds wealth tax levy can, in some cases, be met from surplus cash, which should be recycled into the farming operations, but after that there can be no expansion and only a slow reduction. The suggestion in the wealth tax proposals that payments can be postponed until death is also, meanwhile attracting interest in a not an acceptable answer. It would deter liability and meanwhile the farmer would only know that he is incurring each year an unacceptable burden for himself and his family.

I appreciate the need for a tax review in the light of changing political, social and economic conditions but for the Government to exhort with one voice and deplete the means of fulfilling this exhortation by another voice is a contradiction that just does not make sense.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. ABEL SMITH,
Wentworth Park,
Hereford.
Herefordshire.

From Mr. Michael Heybrook
Sir, As a farmer producing cereals, beef, lamb, and potatoes I would like to argue that with today's costs and returns the proposals of the Government White Paper (Cmnd. 6020) are pure wishful thinking. I am still realizing lower prices for my cattle and wheat than two years ago, and the market for lamb has always been tied to the beef market as straight price substitution takes place. Meanwhile costs have all at least doubled in this time.

Further capital into expanding a business when this merely increases one's liability for capital taxation through capital gains tax, capital transfer tax and eventually through the proposed wealth tax.

Many of our farmers who are intending to expand production after the last disastrous two years, and I think many farmers are fully aware that increased production and constant nagging surpluses in one commodity after another are the greatest menaces to overall profitability in this industry, and the logical result is that from now on regardless of the blandishments of governments the aim of the industry must be to restrict production to prevent surpluses ever occurring.

The memory of the dairy herd conversion scheme and the invitations of the Government to expand in the face of the crash that followed are still too recent to be forgotten. Unless cast iron guarantees are offered if one will contract my output right across the board as any expansion is far too risky.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. HAYBROOK,
Manor Farm,
Chenley, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.

random within the market. Was the
 1955 price really based on 1945
 or 1955 the price would have been
 no relation whatever to the £24,000
 obtained in 1965; in any case what
 is the relevance of £24,000 when Mr
 Leggat himself obtained a yet
 higher price within much less than
 a year?

And what if Mr Leggat's figures
 had been reversed and, over 20
 years, tax had been paid on a value
 of £24,000 (ie, at 1 per cent, a total
 of £4,800) and the 1965 sale price
 had only been £30,200? That is, the
 picture is by no means as fanciful
 as at first appears. In the first place
 experience shows that valuations of
 personal property, although
 occasionally revealing unsuspected
 profits, are more frequently under-
 than over-priced. The possibility of
 the morprized of possessions to be
 virtually worthless and self-assess-
 ment to have been hopelessly
 optimistic. Secondly, it is not un-
 known for pictures genuinely sur-
 rounded by the most famous
 artists to be subsequently proved to
 be clever but comparatively worth-
 less fakes. And thirdly, the market
 does not always move upwards
 so rapidly so many people have
 years ago in the case of antique
 silver. In such cases of tax paid year
 by year on grossly optimistic values,
 is the taxpayer to be entitled to
 a rebate, and if so on what basis?

Yours faithfully,
 PHILIP BROADBRIDGE, Secretary,
 London and Provincial Antique
 Dealers Association
 25 Berners Street, SE1.

only the language of numbers in danger, of equaler and starvation and is likely to spoil much natural beauty.

The Dean's principles serve merely to apphor more efficiently and fairly the human right to depredation of the world, and unless moralists question that very right and are motivated by a love which generates a humility before nature, the prospect for our own children and grandchildren is full of unpleasantness.

What worries me is the Dean's apparent blindness to the presumptuousness of his approach.

Yours faithfully,
SCOTT S. SCHORR
Professor of Theoretical Mechanics,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Department of Mathematics,
Exhibition Road, SW7.

education. They are: (1) the *unplanned* avalanche; (2) the *application* of promotion opportunities within schools, particularly at the *primary level*; and (3) *reorganization*.

The two latter developments had a most unsettling effect on teachers. Hopes of promotion and further promotion have been *resisted* by teachers by the feeling of *insecurity* attendant *whether* justifiably or not, on reorganization, *often* long delayed.

Now, some of the innovations tried out in schools—have been good, some not so good, but the *happier* circumstances the good would have had every chance to be *identified* and retained while the *less* good and the bad would have been *filtered* out. The *best* reason for this is the simple reason that in education as in now new ideas have little hope of being considered on their merits.

When a local education authority is smitten with the urge to select what it is likely to regard as a "good" school for its purpose. The head of the "good" school, flattered and anxious to please, having *promoted* his staff, and *promoted* a middle school, perhaps, when reorganization is completed, will be unable to conceal from his staff that he would like the results to *climax* with the *achievement* of a *promoted* school, and aware that for all practical purposes promotion within the school is in the gift of the head, will feel pressurized to achieve the *desired* results by *any* means, *feedback* and an *appearance* of success for the experiment which may be unreal.

The growth of education in this country has developed, until recently, along local lines to suit local needs. The influence of county and town hall must carry its former weight at Whitehall.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WELCH, Headmaster,
Hornsea C of E Primary School,
Hornsea,
Hampshire.
Hartfordshire.
North Devon.

Sir May I, as parent, teacher and school manager, contribute something to the discussion on the latest Black Paper?

Three developments in education, none of them harmful in itself, have coincided with resulting damage to

From Mr Robert Cooke, Conservative MP for Bristol, West
Sir, Many of us in Parliament share the frustration of authors at the further postponement of Mr Hugh Jenkins's Bill on Public Lending Rights.

On March 4 I was told in the Commons that "Good progress with the preparation of the Bill is being made with a view to its early introduction". By April 17 another member of the Commons said that "The necessary practical tests are needed before conclusions can be reached on the precise methods to be adopted for the implementation of a right.... Clear indications are expected by

Perhaps a self-financing scheme ought to be considered. Copyright now normally runs for 50 years following an author's death. If it were extended to 60 years after the author's death, the Public Lending Right fund to help living authors, there would be no charge on the exchequer.

We shall, of course, be told that the author's life rights tend to be a matter of private responsibility but this should not prevent his taking a broad view. Unless the arts are to wither away in subsidized isolation

From Lord Esher
Sir, Congratulations to those responsible at the GLC for Charing Cross bridge's new livery, latest and best in a happy series. It is marvellous that this old monster, execrated by generations of London aesthetes, should have become a joy at last.
Yours faithfully,
ESHER
82 Sloane Street, SW1.
April 22

From Dr A. L. Jacobs

Sir, The idea proclaimed by Dr Sir James Spence (April 18) of founding an establishment which is to rival the Mayo Clinic in its dedication to the medical sciences is a noble one. The medical world will await with impatience the stream of outstanding medical publications which is certain to begin flowing in the fullness of time. The writers of this letter, with commendable restraint, have allowed themselves only brief mention of their humility and compassion. Their exposition of the moral imperatives which have inspired their devotion to private consultant practice is truly impressive.

But was it necessary for them to disparage a far more considerable body of consultants, colleagues by alleging that "the primary responsibility of the full-time doctor employed by the state is not to the patient but to the state"? As one who worked full-time in the hospital service for 40 years, for nearly 30

The darker side of this phenomenon is that subjects which lend themselves to display tend to be favoured while those which do not may be neglected. The Bullock Report on reading miscues, for example, means negligible possibility.

This is not an attempt at an easy diagnosis of all the ills of education. It is merely a hint from an experienced practicing classroom

Yours faithfully,
P. A. McNAMEE,
10 Argyle Road,
Swanage,
Dorset.

I do not claim any particular credit for having devoted the whole of my professional energies to the care of my hospital patients or for having forgone the additional financial rewards which private practice might have enabled me to earn. I willingly endure the crushing sense of moral inferiority which afflicts me every time I have to walk down Harley Street. But I must protest when my professional integrity is called into question.

Yours faithfully,
A. JACOBS (formerly consultant physician Whittington Hospital, London),
126 New Street, N3.

From Mr Angus Nicol
Sir, Mr Allery's notion of "no representation without taxation" (April 15) would exclude from the franchise all those over the age of 18 whose incomes are so low that they pay no income tax; the unemployed, bankrupts, single persons with an income up to £675 pa, married persons with no children receiving up to £1,000, with one child up to £1,155, a second child up to £1,300, and so assessed, and so on. It would be simpler to have a fixed property qualification if such a plutocracy is not to be too complicated, though it is not to be believed that such an idea would command much support now.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant
ANGUS NICOL,
10 Lamont Road, SW10.
April 22.

From Mr John Duncan Miller
Sir, Your correspondents have been enjoying themselves at the expense of the Chancellor of the Exchequer for classifying burning machines as luxuries." But I am afraid they have been reading only the sections (including, I am sorry to see your own) and have not bothered to study the budget speech itself.

According to your report Mr. Healey's words were: "I recognize that very few classes of goods are now generally accepted to be luxuries. Their sales are limited and, because of this, a higher rate of tax restricted to such goods would produce relatively little additional revenue. It is therefore inevitable that the higher rate has also to cover some goods which are used in most homes."

After many years during which Chancellors of both parties have talked as if all goods that anyone could possibly want to buy were luxuries, it finds it refreshing that there should at last be one who is aware how times have changed. This is surely a matter for congratulation rather than jokes.

Yours, etc,
JOHN DUNCAN MILLER,
63 Addison Road, W14.
April 22.

Peter Jay
Thursday
Column,
page 21

Sainsburys and British Home plan hypermarket

By David Young

Sainsburys and British Home Stores are to combine to form a new company to move into hypermarket trading. Planning application for the company's first store will be submitted "within the next few weeks".

No name for the new company has been selected, nor has its financial or management structure been completed but it will begin operating very soon. Several sites have been chosen for development.

Problems in obtaining planning permission for hypermarkets are a big reason for the two groups to combine in this venture. Both realize that any growth in the retailing sector depends on a relaxation of local and central government attitudes to planning applications.

The company's reputations in their separate sectors and the fact that, in some cases, the hypermarkets will be operating close to existing Sainsburys and British Home Stores shops will remove several of the objections made in the past.

Sites that the new company plans to develop have room for scores with more than 50,000 sq ft of selling space as well as car parking and services.

The two companies yesterday said that they consider that hypermarkets, with their operational cost economies, should become an integral part of retailing and give shoppers the benefits of lower prices.

Both companies say that such developments can and should be undertaken without any lowering of quality. Sainsburys' own-label foodstuffs will sell alongside textiles, clothing and furnishings bearing the British Home Stores "Prove it" brand name and it is likely that BHS will operate the restaurants at the hypermarkets.

Prices will be significantly cheaper than in the companies' conventional stores, but both yesterday emphasized that hypermarket trading will be complementary to existing shops and development plans for traditional stores remain unaffected.

Oldham Industrial Co-op Society is to build an 84,000 sq ft store in the Lancashire town on two levels with parking for 400 cars.

Building societies cut investment rate to 7pc

By Margaret Stone

In the light of falling bank savings rates and record net receipts—a figure near £300m—is likely for April—building society leaders yesterday decided that the rate paid to building society investors should be reduced by 1 per cent to 7 per cent from June 1.

As widely predicted, the Council of the Building Societies Association unanimously voted against a reduction in the present mortgage interest rate of 11 per cent.

Mr Leonard Boyle, chairman of the association, said yesterday: "The reduced cost of raising funds has been completely counterbalanced by increased expenses in all fields and especially by sharp increases in the societies' tax liability."

The outlook for a cut in the mortgage rate later in the year looks remote. Mr Boyle pointed out it was most unlikely that the association could contemplate a cut in the mortgage rate and keep the investment rate at 7 per cent.

The societies are confident that the cut from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent in the investment rate will not greatly affect the strong inflow of funds. These are running at a remarkably high level with a record total of £274m in March, and April showing every sign of being another winner.

This picture could change when the Government's new range of index-linked National Savings goes on sale in summer. The societies are more concerned about the attractiveness of the index-linked bond for pensioners—big savers with societies at the moment—rather than the index-linked Save As You Earn scheme.

Although borrowers will be disappointed that the mortgage interest rate has not come down, Mr Boyle pointed out that the change in basic rate taxes in the last two spring Budgets have meant two effective reductions in the net cost of home loans.

When the mortgage rate went up to 11 per cent in September, 1973, the net interest rate was 7.7 per cent. Last March it was reduced to 7.35 per cent and after last week's Budget it is 7.15 per cent.

By the same token, tax changes will also partially cushion investors. The new 7 per cent rate grossed up to 10.77 per cent compared with the 11.19 per cent when the 7.5 per cent rate was grossed up at the old basic rate of tax.

It is the impact of the tax changes which have largely prevented the societies from cutting the mortgage rate. It is estimated that the new composite rate of tax will be at least 28.25 per cent and probably nearer 29 per cent.

To return to a position of reasonable operating margins—which has been the order since 1974—societies had to widen the gap between the investment and mortgage interest rates.

Treasury seeks Budget comment

The Government wants to ensure "adequate consultation" with industry, commerce and the professions on certain aspects of the Finance Bill, to be published next Tuesday, before it becomes legislation.

Invitations were extended by the Treasury yesterday to "interested parties" to express views on technical and practical provisions of the Bill, either direct or through professional associations and representative bodies.

A Treasury spokesman said: "This is an opportunity to offer comments on details of the Bill, as published."

Leysland shares suspended after Lord Stokes has a meeting with Mr Benn

By Goodrich Clarke

Lord Stokes, Leysland's chairman, met Mr Benn, Secretary for Industry, yesterday morning to discuss the company's suspension of shares.

Lord Stokes said that the company's shares had been suspended since the motor manufacturer's financial results for the year ended 31st March 1975, which showed a loss of £1.5m, were published.

Whether this is still necessary will presumably depend on the timing of the Government's decision after publication of what is likely to be an abridged version of the Ryder report.

After publication today Lord Stokes said his board expected to spend a day studying the document—which so far they have not had an opportunity of seeing—before making any agreement or recommendations to shareholders.

Clifford Webb, Leysland's financial adviser, said the company's board was "in a difficult position" because of the Ryder report's recommendations.

A big financial decision is in the offing, he said, and the board will be asked to decide whether to accept the Ryder report's recommendations or to make a "voluntary" arrangement with the Government.

Mr Benn said the company's shares had been suspended because of the Ryder report's recommendations.

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Leysland fears switched from sterling to dollar

By Westlake

Leysland's financial advisers yesterday said the company's shares had been suspended because of the Ryder report's recommendations.

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m sugarbeet subsidy ted despite price rise

Clayton

Four days we could get it all in, the corporation added.

A price rise from the present level of about £16 a ton for unprocessed beet has been agreed with the National Farmers' Union. The amount will be disclosed today.

NFU members in Cambridgeshire decided to press their national officers to demand a single payment of £30 an acre from the Government to sugarbeet growers on top of the price paid for the crop.

The union said only 10 per cent of the crop had been sown in Cambridgeshire, and that the best drilling time was now past. "There is evidence to suggest that a lot of land will be left fallow or turned over to a late barley crop."

J. HEWITT & SON (FENTON) LIMITED

Manufacturers of Refractory Products

PROGRESS IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

	1974	1973
Sales	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
Profit before tax	77	68
Taxation	41	32
Earnings per ordinary share of 5p before extraordinary items	1.5p	1.5p

wing is an extract from the Statement by the Chairman, Hewitt, to the Members at the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd April, 1975.

used to report that the results for 1974 show a gratifying year in spite of the disappointing first half of the year which was affected by power restrictions. Profits before tax for the year were 18% higher than in 1973 with turnover increased by nearly 18%.

It was a most difficult year with continued escalation of costs, wages, resulting from the operation of threshold clauses in the structure. In view of the better results for the last half year with a satisfactory start to 1975 your Board has decided to recommend that the dividend be increased from 14% to 15.2%, the 1st permitted.

demand for your Company's products is at a satisfactory level. It is difficult to anticipate the results but, given the continuation of present demand and providing reasons can be continued at reasonable levels, we are confident that profits for 1975 should not be less than those for 1974, and be kept at a level which will enable us to make a further contribution to the steadily increasing demand for working capital.

Inquiry into Crown Agents' dealings

By Margaret Drummond

A long-awaited government statement on the Crown Agents, delivered in the House of Commons yesterday by Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, disclosed that an independent inquiry is to be held into the series of financial misadventures which led the organization to seek £85m of government support last December.

A White Paper is shortly to be published on the future relationship between the Crown Agents and the Government.

Meanwhile, Mrs Hart announced three new members to the main board, completing the top level reconstruction initiated last year.

Coopers and Lybrand, the chartered accountants and by the recently appointed Crown Agent, Mr John Cuckney, have not completed internal investigations, but four main problem areas have been identified. The independent inquiry, which is to be conducted by Judge Fay, Sir Edmund Compton, and a so far unnamed accountant, has strictly historical terms of reference.

A new, and possibly more thoroughgoing, inspection is thought essential in view of the large amount of government support now committed to the Agents and the question of public accountability is raised.

But Mrs Hart indicated that it was to be a private investigation because of the necessity to preserve banking confidentiality with the Agents' overseas clients. An independent committee, private or otherwise, is likely to take a critical view of the Government's own investigation in the years leading up to the crisis, when their activities were subject to an increasing barrage of criticism from both inside and outside the House.

It will investigate the principal problems as analysed by the Coopers and Lybrand inquiry: How a burgeoning banking business in the late 1960s was managed; the organization into huge "own account" dealings in the secondary banking and property sectors in an attempt to strengthen an inadequate capital base and how it led to a commitment of an unduly large proportion of the total banking resources to a small number of borrowers.

It will go through the history of the large loans extended, often without adequate security, to the failed property empires of Mr William Stern, and Mr Ronald Lyon, as well as to secondary banks such as the Investment Trust, the Burton Group, and Sterling Industrial Securities.

Government bid for Stern flats expected

By Desmond Quigley

A bid by the multimillion pound London residential properties of the collapsed Stern empire is expected shortly from the Department of the Environment, some several months after the department first asked the company's liquidator time to make an offer.

However, if a bid is forthcoming, it is likely to be strongly contested by many residents of the blocks of flats on the grounds that the department will be misapplying public money to help out the big banks who financed the activities of the Stern financial and property group.

Mr Kenneth Cork, liquidator of Stern's parent company, Wilster Securities, said last night that the department had made the approach some months ago in the hope that "they would be given the chance to make an offer before the property was sold piecemeal."

He added: "We have been waiting for some months and we are given to understand that a letter of offer will be made shortly."

He said he had been constantly approached by tenants' associations of the various blocks of flats wanting to buy their flats but had been told that the department should be made.

Mr Wilson calms City on scheme for financing NEB

Mr Wilson moved cautiously but firmly last night to reassure the City that a document advocated by Industry Secretary, Mr Wedgwood Benn, requiring insurance firms and pension funds to back Labour's National Enterprise Board's scheme, was unlikely ever to become government policy.

At Tuesday night's private meeting of the Industrial Policy and sub-committee of Labour's Home, Policy group, Mr Benn is understood to have submitted a confidential discussion paper setting out a ten-year strategy for investment and full employment.

Controversially it elaborated on a not unknown theme that firms should pay money into the enterprises of the new NEB.

Later it was learnt that the document did not receive wholesale approval from Labour Party policy makers and may be extensively revised.

Last night sources close to Mr Wilson pointed out that the ideas for compelling investment were quite definitely not government policy. Additionally it was said that in any event such a policy would be contrary to the Government's work and would not be the responsibility of Mr Benn.

More important, it was strongly indicated that such a "cash grab" scheme stood little chance of gaining favour with the Prime Minister. Other ministers and MPs at Westminster have already privately expressed horror at the apparent concept of the State taking over pension money to finance a backdoor nationalisation.

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Bracken Mines 25p to 32.5p	Newman Tanks 5p to 4p
Barrow 12p to 15p	Robt Lums 1p to 2p
British Steel 12p to 15p	Rio Tinto Zinc 6p to 10p
British Airways 12p to 15p	Shaw Savill 25p to 16.5p
British Petroleum 12p to 15p	Wellcom 50p to 25p
British Telecomm 12p to 15p	Western Areas 12p to 15p
British Waterways 12p to 15p	Woodmill 1p to 2p
British Airways 12p to 15p	
British Petroleum 12p to 15p	
British Telecomm 12p to 15p	
British Waterways 12p to 15p	

Equities fell back from a firm start, on rumours of a big rights issue.

Gold rose by £2.50 yesterday to \$168.25 an oz.

SDR-5 was £2,202 on Tuesday, while SDR-6 was £2,567.

Commodities: Sugar closed up to £13.25 a long ton lower yesterday, while cocoa was £3 a tonne lower to £1.00 higher. Reuters' index fell by 9.1 points to 1,080.5.

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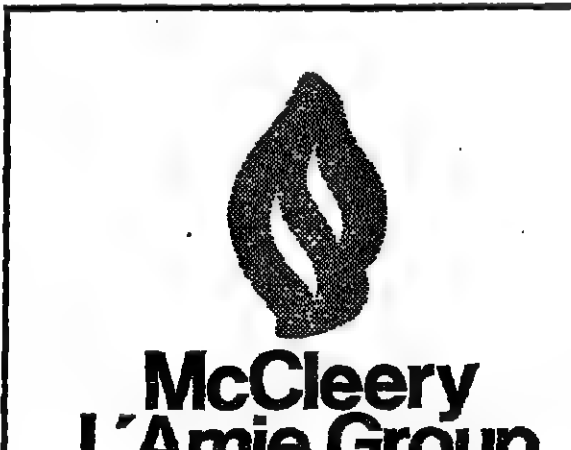
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THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia \$	1.33	1.77
Austria Sch	41.00	39.00
Belgium F	86.75	84.00
Canada \$	2.44	2.39
Denmark Kr	13.30	13.30
Finland Mk	8.65	8.40
France Fr	10.05	9.75
Germany DM	5.75	5.55
Greece Dr	20.75	20.00
Hongkong \$	11.00	11.45
Italy L	1330.00	1480.00
Japan Yn	175.00	690.00
Netherlands Gld	5.85	5.65
Norway Kr	12.05	11.70
Portugal Esc	54.75	58.75
S Africa Rd	1.41	1.75
Spain Ptas	130.00	128.00
Sweden Kr	9.60	9.30
Switzerland Fr	6.15	5.95
US \$	2.40	2.35
Yugoslavia Dnr	41.00	38.75

Rate for bank notes only as supplied yesterday, to be used for clearing purposes. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

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McCleery L'Amie Group Limited

Summary of Results	1974	1973
For the year ended 31st October, 1974	£'000	£'000
Turnover	13,557	11,258
Profit before Taxation	1,277	981
Profit after Taxation	693	657
Extraordinary Items (less tax)	153	30
Earnings for Ordinary Shares	816	758
Earnings per Share	5.54p	5.30p
Dividend per Share	1.875p	1.4875p
Dividend Cover	3.3	3.5
Net Assets per Share	\$2.5p	27.7p

Chairman, M. T. D. Lorimer reported to shareholders at the A.G.M.

I am delighted to be able to report to you the continued prosperity of your company which is demonstrated by another year of record profits.

The Group's liquid resources improved considerably during the year with a positive cash flow of over £1.5 million converting a bank overdraft position of £1,287,000 to a cash at bank position of £286,000.

For some time now we have been anxious to develop overseas and have pursued many possibilities during the past year but have not managed to find, as yet, a suitable opportunity.

The matter is still being actively pursued.

At a time when inflation of 20% plus is the order of the day it is difficult to see any improvement in international economic conditions. However, I am confident that our Group, with its three independent areas of operation and an enthusiastic staff, will successfully overcome the difficulties which lie ahead and the substantial investment in plant and machinery that has been made over the past few years will enable us to trade profitably and maintain our growth record.

Companies suffered peak deficit last year

By Tim Congdon

Companies continued to move further into debt in the fourth quarter of last year. Industrial and commercial companies had a financial deficit of £725m in the quarter, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

This deficit, although still extremely large, was much less than in the third quarter when it amounted to £1,047m. Moreover, the reduction in the deficit occurred before the effect of the November Budget's concessions on the taxation of stock appreciation profits had been felt.

The Budget concessions would make a substantial difference to companies' financial position in the first quarter of this year. However, the financial deficit of industrial and commercial companies in 1974 was a whole lot higher, at £3,607m, the highest recorded.

This outcome confirms the accuracy of forecasts made by the Confederation of British Industry at the time of the March Budget that companies would face serious financial difficulties throughout the year.

The company sector was not the only part of the economy to incur substantial amounts of debt. Indeed, the financial deficit of the public sector in the year, at £5,128m, was even larger and was also the highest ever.

Moreover, while companies were beginning to correct their position by the fourth quarter, the Government and other public authorities were moving a step further into the red.

The public sector financial deficit in the fourth quarter affected by rapid increases in pay, stood at £1,733, almost £500m higher than in the third quarter and about £1,000m higher than in the corresponding quarter of 1973.

AMC 'seeking to buy Audi line'

Detroit, April 23.—American Motors Corporation is reported to be negotiating with Audi-NSU to import a four-cylinder engine production line into the United States.

AMC is said to be testing some of the two-litre West German engines in some of its current models. Engines manufactured on the line have been used in the Audi 100 models.

An AMC spokesman declined to comment on the report.

Industry sources say AMC has been looking for a four-cylinder engine to put in its compact Gremlin in 1977.—AP.

Workers lock out management and staff at Ford's Swansea plant

Ford workers locked out management and staff yesterday during a sit-in at the company's Swansea plant. They were protesting against alleged grievances over management at the plant which employs 2,200 workers and produces axle and transmission units.

The morning shift took over the plant soon after they reported for work. They blocked the main gates leading to the car park alongside the factory building with lorries and other heavy vehicles in an attempt to keep staff and management out. The action followed a meeting of workers.

More than 1,700 employees were reported to be "occupying" the factory. Shop stewards locked the front gates and turned away senior management officials who apparently left without protest.

Mr. Jock Stern, the works convenor, said: "We have complete discipline over our members in the factory. This will be a peaceful occupation and we will sit in until we get what we want."

"We will try to conduct ourselves as responsible people and look after the property during the occupation."

He said contact had been made with union leaders at Ford plants throughout Britain but we are not asking them for support. We think they have their own problems of a similar nature and they know the best way of dealing with them."

He said the protest was against management pressures and a lack of good industrial relations. With the economic climate the way it is,

we should be working together in dealing with problems without provocation. The management has pursued a policy of provocation which the men cannot tolerate any longer."

The men are insisting that a senior industrial relations officer from the group's head office in Broomfield talks to them.

Workers manning the main gates this morning turned back delivery lorries. The incident which triggered off the sit-in decision involved the 24-hour suspension last Friday of a man who did not achieve his production line workload.

Clifford Webb writes: Militant shop stewards from British Leyland, Ford, Chrysler, Vauxhall and some of their biggest component suppliers took the first step yesterday to form a union committee representing the whole of the British motor industry.

All main motor plants have been invited to send two representatives to an inaugural meeting on May 12. Although such a body would have no official standing with the unions, it will undoubtedly have a powerful voice.

The initiative was taken by another unofficial body, British Leyland's Combining Shop Stewards Committee. Its officials dominated yesterday's meeting in Birmingham which was attended by several hundred shop stewards, including men from Lucas, Dunlop and Smiths Industries.

At a press conference later, Mr. Eddie McGarry, joint chairman of the BLSC committee, said one of the first tasks of the new body would be to meet Labour MPs representing car

constituencies. It would press for government action to help the whole of the motor industry in its present crisis.

"Blame misdirected": Far too much blame has been on the workers in the British Motor Industry for the problems it has experienced, Mr. Moss Evans, national organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union said yesterday.

Giving evidence to the House of Commons Trade and Industry sub-committee inquiry into the motor industry he declared: "Strikes are only one of the elements which lead to interruption in production."

Asked whether he thought the nationalization of British Leyland would help solve some of the company's problems Mr. Evans replied: "Yes, I do. If the orthodox institutions are not prepared to risk their capital, I think it is common sense that if the Government was to lead the money, there should be accountability to the Government."

Birmingham dispute ends: Workers at the British Leyland car body factory in Birmingham backed away from a confrontation with the management yesterday. Threatened with the closure of the plant and layoffs for 8,000 men, shop stewards told the company that the policy of non-cooperation adopted by half the labour force was being called off.

There was an urgent need for rationalization throughout the industry to cut out wasteful duplication.

Textile union to press for 20pc cut in imports

By R. W. Shakespeare

Fresh demands for the Government to impose strict restrictions on the import of cheap textile goods will come from a union conference representing some 68,000 textile workers, which opens in Blackpool today.

Against a background of extensive cutbacks in production and short-time working at present affecting some 60,000 workers, as well as the closure of a further 25 mills in the North-west alone over the past year, the annual conference of the United Textile Factory Workers Association will debate a motion which maintains that import controls are now urgently needed to make the industry viable.

Union leaders have already made direct representation to Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, and a Cabinet decision on import controls is expected shortly. However, there are fears that the action the Government will propose will fall short of the level of protection that the unions claim is needed.

A recent agreement between the European Commission and India under which textile imports to Britain will be limited over the next three years has gone only part of the way to meeting the industry's demands. They want to see a minimum cut of 20 per cent in the level of imports from all sources.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposals for investment in British industry

From Mr. Roy Grancham

Sir, On February 20 you reported the proposals my union had made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for a new investment agency, whereby 25 per cent of all new money available for lending by insurance companies and super-annuation funds would be channelled into creating capital for manufacturing industry. It was therefore with considerable interest that I read *The Times* (Monday) that Mr. Benn is putting forward similar proposals.

It is well documented knowledge that the United Kingdom's investment record in manufacturing industry is poor; however, simply to blame the lending institutions would be naive.

New investment needs, a borrower as much as a lender and one of the major problems is not so much the availability of funds as willingness on the part of British industry to commit itself to medium and long term investment. We are aware that at times when cash was plentiful industry has stubbornly refused to invest.

One incentive to encourage investment which my union has put forward is lending at a low rate of interest with the

option for converting at favourable terms into equity. At the end of the day, however, we must also use the planning agreement system to stimulate investment.

Pension fund solvency is also important. Members of my union who sit as pension fund trustees are very much concerned with this problem, what must be ensured is that any lending which is carried out in conjunction with insurance companies and pension funds through the planning agreement system should carry a Government guarantee in case of default. In effect, this would make the loan a form of gilt-edged security and consequently the rate of interest paid could be somewhat lower than on a normal commercial loan.

Overall Mr. Benn's proposals should be welcomed because they recognize as we have done for several years, that the problems of new investment and the City are directly related. Anything which stimulates examination of the problem is beneficial.

ROY GRANCHAM, General Secretary, Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff.

increase spending in accordance with the public sector average. If the effect of the incentives were equal on both groups, the tendency for faster rises in pay and costs will be maintained. However, it is more likely that the effect of the incentives to increase spending will be greater, reinforcing the tendency for faster rises in the public sector.

Instead, base the allowance on private sector rises alone. This will still maintain the desired incentive effect, give realistic allowances to the more efficient spending agencies, and have a better chance of reducing the excess pay and price rises in the public sector.

W. J. CORCORAN, Lecturer in Economics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

From Mr. R. Ruddock-West

Sir, Mr. Wilkins' view on capital hydraulic power systems (April 10) are well known to the hydraulics industry. Although his proposed systems would undoubtedly work in practice, our own study has suggested that they would be unlikely to offer large savings in running costs compared with individual electric drives.

This is particularly true where power factor correction equipment is used for overcoming the high cost of electric motors operating below their full output. Against these possible savings in fuel costs, however, must be set the higher levels of noise, maintenance cost and capital cost to the user.

It is especially this last factor, the high capital cost, which makes central hydraulic systems unattractive to the potential user, at a time when:

a return to low interest rates cannot be foreseen.

There are of course exceptions to this in some machine shops, some process plant applications and some factory complexes, where central hydraulic systems for groups of machines can be more competitive than individual electric drives. There can also be an overwhelming case for a single supply system instead of a number of individual pumps supplying individual machines.

In some specific applications there is much to be said for Mr. Wilkins' view, but this should not be taken to extremes. It is unlikely that central hydraulics will have a major impact on the site. In the decade of the total hydraulics market.

I must also refute the suggestion that the United Kingdom Hydraulics industry is necessarily unable to respond to challenging situations. Many

companies, accounting for over 65 per cent of the industry's sales, were found to "have achieved a level of performance which would do credit to most manufacturing industries."

The challenge facing the hydraulics industry is not a matter of central distribution systems. Rather, it is the need for a vigorous commercial response, as discussed in the report to the growing internationalization of markets: that is to say, the industry must strengthen itself in relation to its European and United States competitors; and improve the ways in which it can serve the market needs of its customers here and overseas.

Yours faithfully, R. RUDDOCK-WEST, P.E. Consulting Group Limited, Wick Road, Egham, Surrey.

April 15.

From Mr. W. J. Corcoran

Sir, Peter Jay (April 17) indicates a method which would give public spending agencies an incentive to resist excessive price and pay demands within their own sector. This would entail an allowance for pay and price rises in the public sector which, presumably, would be based on a weighted average of increases among the different agencies.

His method, contrary to his intention, will write in the tendency of public sector pay and costs to rise faster than the national average. While the allowance for pay and price rises in the public sector which, presumably, would be based on a weighted average of increases among the different agencies.

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Putting record straight on fee paying agencies

From Mrs. H. Long

Sir, The fact that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has at last brought in legislation against the small minority of agencies who treat their temporary staff as self-employed workers will be welcomed by the very large majority of fee paying agencies who run their businesses in a normal ethical way and retain accounts staff to deal with all temporary staff's tax and insurance matters.

We have all been pressing for this for a long time, and in fact I myself have written to the appropriate Ministry with no results.

Yesterday's comments by Mr. Ray Buckton on hearing the steps the Chancellor was taking would have led those listeners who were not so informed to believe that all fee paying agencies operated in this way and that the only agencies that did not were the state ones. This, of course, is totally untrue and the public should be informed accordingly.

N. LONG, N-Type Secretarial Bureau, 70-71 New Bond Street, London

Master Jones

From Mr. Justin Richards

Sir, Mr. Jack Jones, with his usual mastery of the irrelevant, now accuses the self-employed of breaking the Social Contract, a contract in which they are not parties and whose terms are secreted in the darker corridors of power.

The battered self-employed of these islands, unlike Mr. Jones and his colleagues, have to undergo the formality of earning everything they pay.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, JUSTIN RICHARDS, Managing Director, Headlands, The Headlands, Blackpool.

April 21.

Central hydraulic power systems

From Mr. R. Ruddock-West

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Pimm's people have style.

6,000 lay-offs predicted in radio industry

By David Young

Lord Thorneycroft, president of the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association has sent a telegram to all MPs about the effects of the Budget on the industry.

He has said that companies estimate that permanent and unavoidable lay-offs will exceed 6,000, at least 20 per cent of the direct labour employed.

The telegram states: "These figures are in addition to the 5,000 redundancies which occurred in the calendar year 1974, and exclude the serious position which will undoubtedly occur in component and associated industries."

Lord Thorneycroft added that the enforced reduction in production now cannot fail to increase the cost of imports when the market next improves and will have serious consequences on the balance of payments position.

He said the Chancellor had emphasized the importance of the commission and allocated a further £50m for increasing training, speeding up the modernization of the employment services and improving labour mobility.

Sir Denis said he thought it had been particularly helpful that on being established the commission had put in hand work on contingency plans for rising unemployment and had consequently been able to put a package of special measures to the Government.

After the Budget the commission was now in a position to put these into effect.

Go-ahead signal to commission's manpower plans

As a result of Budget measures, the Manpower Services Commission was now in a position to put into effect the package of special proposals it put to the Government last autumn, Sir Denis Barnes, the commission chairman, said yesterday when he presented its first annual report.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Leyland: the best option for shareholders?

It suggests that British shareholders are in a position on the day that a Report on the future of the company is published, they are suspended, and they are not to put up the sort of the company, request of the Government.

It is, and they would likely criticized if they are, powers remain to try and irresponsibly proposals from the company.

It is, though, they may a room to argue they will be, and wisely guided by the company, they will approve any increase in the company has arranged a meeting to ask shareholders to vote on a new issue of £10m. My view is that the Government, more than 15 per cent, state effective control, and since they are likely to remain in power, existing shareholders, unable or unwilling to go on, are unlikely to be diluted, and the company is already been indicated a severely restricted conditions of government.

There is any chance of nationalization of Leyland, such as is suggested by some, this would also be an option for shareholders. At least it would be a forward-looking compensation and even share this year would be more than 10p in five years.

Metal dening

As for borrowings, almost last year to £33.4m, a programme, controlled by £1.1m to only £1.1m for the general need to the equity base are the actors behind. Delta 12m rights issue. After £4.5m to £1.1m, a decline in the company's share price, with Kingdom borrowings some £7m lower since then, of the benefit to the unwinding of the long and short price, releasing some £1.1m. And the metal price has the metal account below the line, giving £4.08m net profit into £4.55m. The company is covered by a grant-oustanding reserve, profits were much in the interim prediction, with the United activities proving the former. The impact of the improvement at the level from £31.7m came largely from the and engineering and exports, the money being more than sufficient increasing sales, a building component, overseas saw a £1m fall, while a £500,000, net in South Africa, and by fall of similar as in Europe.

Now faces increasing pressure from the front, in demand in most sectors and margins, a fall in profits in 1975, but how sharp still anyone's guess at. At 771p, the share price is a historic with a prospective exit that is hardly

likely to look exciting even in today's markets.

Accounts 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £88.2m
Net assets £81.7m (£83.7m)
Reserves £76.7m (£83.7m)
Pre-tax profit £28.4m (£26.7m)
Earnings per share 8.6p (10.3p)

Tube Investments Uncertain prospects

The full accounts from Tube Investments will probably do little to answer the market's surprise that the group did not go for a larger rights issue. Nor will they help very much in helping analysts arrive at a likely profit outcome for the current year. The forecast remains that the first half should be roughly similar to the opening half of last year and, understandably, that what happens in the second half is going to depend on just how events unfold. Meanwhile, a maintained profit level for the opening six months of the year is clearly going to contain its swings and roundabouts—order books in most capital sectors remaining good but the cycle division, for instance, expected to remain fairly flat for another couple of months yet.

As for the balance sheet ratios, a fair amount must depend on the extent in inflation and demand over the second half of the year. But Tubes reckons that last year's rise of over a quarter in working capital can be treated as an early exception, given such factors as the steep rise in steel prices and the unusually high level of finished stocks at the year-end thanks to the downturn in some consumer markets in the final quarter. Even so, it looks as if borrowing ratio, that comes back from 73 to around 60 per cent post rights, could start to creep up again given that capital expenditure is not expected to drop much below last year's £18m.

Accounts 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £20m
Net assets £16m (£15m)
Reserves £12.1m (£9m)
Pre-tax profit £41.1m (£33.7m)
Earnings per share 45.7p (44.2p)

Discount houses Jessel Toynebe lead the way

Jessel Toynebe reveals profits almost double the previous record, shows in 1971-72, a growth that no other house has so far shown. To some extent comparisons are made difficult by the inclusion of Norman & Bennett, but the performance is no less impressive for that, particularly with declining interest rates lately tending to bring a contraction in 1974's generous running margins. The book, having lengthened a little earlier this year, as the gilt market revived, has once again been shortened.

For Smith & Aubyn the picture is confused somewhat by a £2.5m provision against a loan to Highgate Securities, now being lengthened a little. That may be serious enough to prevent Smith's recovery, quite as much of the shorted 1973 reserve position as other houses, and to that extent could impose some restraint upon the scope of business this year. But the market's one of relief that the Highgate problem has been attacked at its root and that Smith can again be assessed as a straightforward discount house. Hence yesterday's 5p gain in the shares to 48p.

As to the immediate future of discount house ratings, much will depend on whether Gerard

& National can also manage to top expectations. If so, one might expect to see some short-term strength with Smith, yielding 91 per cent, and yielding 71 per cent at 82p, reasonably well to the fore.

Jessel Toynebe
Final 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £8.92m
Net profits £1.03m (£0.37m)
Dividend gross 5.11p (5.16p)

Smith & Aubyn
Final 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £6.12m
Net profits £1.15m (£1.68m)
Dividend gross 8.11p (3.5p)

Gill & Duffus Cocoa demand is sluggish

That Gill & Duffus ended unchanged in yesterday's markets was a measure of the approval with which profits half a million ahead of the October forecast, and some quarter of a million ahead of most expectations, were greeted. The group's sustained reputation for sustained profits growth will however be more difficult to maintain this year. Not so much because the price of cocoa, which is around 50 per cent of turnover, still relates, in part, to what it was a year ago, for this of itself is all but irrelevant to Gill & Duffus. But the fall reflects a very sharp drop in consumption in the developed countries of the world, and if there is one thing Gill & Duffus can do without it is sluggish cocoa markets.

The group is well spread in other markets—coffee, metals, rubber and edible nuts—but most of these are also quiet at the moment, and likely to stay so for a good part of the year. So the shares, on a 5.2 per cent yield at 102p, have no immediate attractions.

Final 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £24.2m
Sales £376m (£284.5m)
Pre-tax profits £5.25m (£5.19m)
Earnings per share 13.9p (11.2p)
Dividend gross 5.25p (4.7p)
After adjustment for 1-for-2 capitalization issue

RMC After the dividend cut

With a pre-tax total of £9.2m, RMC's profits have emerged from 1974 better than feared, and the yield remains good for the sector despite the cut in the final dividend. The problem, however, is that trading in the market has been tougher this year than last, reflecting the construction slump. West Germany (£115m of total sales and £2.7m of operating profits of £15m) could prove an exception, but even here a trading upturn is not expected. So there could be a further fall in profits, but mitigated by the slowdown in capital spending taking pressure off depreciation and interest charges.

Even so, RMC thinks that it is poised to make further inroads into the market for concrete mixed on site as labour costs climb. It could even raise its United Kingdom share of ready mixed concrete from the present 40 per cent. If 1976 is going to be much better than this year or last, the shares on a yield of 7.9 per cent and p/e of 11.4 are probably taking a reasonable view of a difficult 1975.

Final 1974 (1973)
Capitalization £41.3m
Sales £360.2m (£322.4m)
Pre-tax profits £9.2m (£16.1m)
Earnings per share 5.7p (11.3p)
Dividend gross 5.13p (6.6p)



The Alyeska pipe storage yard near Fairbanks in Central Alaska.

BP's soothing prospect of Alaskan oil

Sir Eric Drake, the chairman of British Petroleum, had a grim message for shareholders earlier this month. With the oil-producing nations chipping away at the profits from crude oil sales, the company, he said, was facing two lean years.

Eight thousand miles away beyond the North Pole, the Alaskan state legislature was receiving equally unpleasant tidings—the \$900m that flowed into its coffers from the sale of oil leases in 1969 is almost gone and for the next two years the state will be desperately short of cash.

Both the company and the state are looking for the same solution to their problems. The giant oilfield that BP found in Prudhoe Bay in the far north will provide the Alaskans with a regular income from royalties and taxes and will enable BP to begin increasing its stake in Standard Oil of Ohio (Sohio) and ultimately its oil earnings from North America.

Environmentalist objections to building an 800-mile pipeline across the state to the ice-free port of Valdez in southern Alaska delayed the project for nearly five years. But work on developing the oilfield and building the pipeline has been going on for more than six months and is on schedule for delivering the first oil on July 1, 1977.

Prudhoe Bay, with 9,000 million barrels of reserves and a production rate of 1.6 million barrels a day, is a large oilfield by Middle Eastern standards, and will certainly make Alaska and the men and women working on the project very rich. Development of peripheral fields will bring the maximum flow rate to two million barrels a day.

An initial effort in terms of lives, cash and technical expertise will be high. Developing a vast oilfield in temperatures that can drop below minus 100°F requires money—\$2,000m—and a lot of people to operate in conditions where a slip can be fatal.

The pipeline, the cause of the environmentalist objections, will be even more costly—\$6,000m. To cross the frozen tundra without melting the ground, the pipeline will be permanently frozen ground, the pipe, warmed by the hot oil, has to be laid on specially insulated stilts.

Where it is not crossing the tundra the pipeline company must deal with mountains and rivers.

It appears that the most critical factor in the development is the construction of a deep-water tanker terminal and storage facilities at Valdez, so that the oil can be shipped to the United States market.

Only about half the oil in the Prudhoe Bay field belongs to BP/Sohio. Atlantic Richfield and Exxon have more than 40 per cent and other companies hold small portions. BP at present has a 25 per cent voting right in Sohio, but once the American company is receiving 200,000 barrels of oil daily, net of royalties, BP will be entitled to a 34 per cent

interest, with dividends, rising to a controlling 54 per cent when the 600,000 barrel-a-day mark is reached—probably in 1980.

Profits from Prudhoe Bay oil will be put to a minimum of \$3, but this is widely regarded as extremely conservative, with between \$4 and \$5 being suggested as more realistic. Profits from the Alaskan oil will accrue directly to Sohio, but from Sohio earnings of between \$700m and \$1,000m before tax annually BP can expect some fat dividend cheques.

BP also has oil from the North Sea as a second means of replacing dwindling profits from Middle East crude sales. But Alaska's prospects of acquiring revenues from oil developments outside Prudhoe Bay are far from certain. The five-year delay in the pipeline discouraged new exploration in the Arctic and this is only now beginning to gather momentum.

The state has spent the \$900m from the 1969 lease sale largely on education and other projects, such as providing air-craft runways for small outlying communities. Now that the money is gone the state has to face the side-effects from the start of work on the pipeline by the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

Housing and all public services are under pressure, the crime rate is soaring and unemployment is rising as people even from other parts of the United States flock to the two for every new job that is created by the pipeline project. With skilled workers able to earn \$50,000 to \$70,000 a year, the flow of Americans shows no signs of abatement.

State revenue from Prudhoe Bay will consist of a 12 per cent royalty and a sliding severance tax of up to 8 per cent. To supplement its income Alaska is now considering a vague plan for taxing oil reserves, but this has run into much opposition from the oil companies as well as the native population, who have high hopes of finding oil on their territory.

An alternative is to run another lease sale. Prudhoe Bay lies on the shores of the Beaufort Sea and all oilmen agree that even thicker oil-bearing sands could be found in the offshore area. Exploration in this region, which is thought to be giving way to the winter months, should present few problems as the water is shallow and guarded by a series of sandy islands.

Nobody doubts that the \$900m collected from the 1969 sales would be exceeded by any new sale. And already there is competition in the leasing department. The Federal Government is planning to offer acreage in the Gulf of Alaska and at the same time is running a stiff opposition from the state, partly because this is a major earthquake area, but mainly because the state would not benefit financially from any offshore development on federal leases.

Roger Vielvoe

Making sense of Mr Benn

It is time serious people began to take Mr Benn seriously, not because he is necessarily right, but because he is coming at last to represent a potentially coherent industrial strategy which deserves to be assessed, perhaps condemned, on its merits and not on the basis of personal jibes as its author or of facile political catch-phrases.

What is Mr Benn, assisted by his formidably talented economic adviser, Mr Francis Cripps, telling us? Essentially he has become the ministerial spokesman of the latest version of Professor Lord Kaldor's ever fertile quest for the roots of economic growth, though with the Chancellor on tax matters the clues have to be gleaned second-hand and assembled from such manifestations as the new Cambridge Economic Policy Review. Mr Benn's article in *Trade and Industry* (April 4), papers submitted to the Labour Party's industrial policy subcommittee (including that reported in *The Times* yesterday), in policy statements by the Tribune Group and in letters to the press such as Professor Robert Neild's in *The Times* yesterday.

In most of these the hand of Mr Cripps and the theories of his former mentor, Lord Kaldor, are to be discerned, though there is no reason to think that Lord Kaldor himself has played any active part in disseminating such thoughts outside academic circles.

The essential notions are that growth occurs primarily in the manufacturing sector of an economy and that it can be sustained in an economy with a large external sector only if the driving force of expanding demand for the products of manufacturing industry comes from overseas. Stimulus by way of home demand leads only to excessive imports, balance of payments crises and an intervention of expansion and investment.

All of this was present in Lord Kaldor's thinking and writing in the 'sixties and early 'seventies. It was the basis of his emphasis on prompt and, if necessary, frequent devaluation, as well as of his invention of the Selective Employment Tax, with premia for manufacturing industries, and of the Regional Employment Premium. It also lies behind the so-called New Cambridge doctrine that the balance of payments must be balanced by balancing the Budget, while economic activity is regulated by managing export growth through the exchange rate, thus inverting the traditional textbook rules of thumb as commonly perceived by postwar policy-makers.

But recent experience has added two new twists to the application of Kaldorian growth theory to the British problem. First, slow and deficient growth is thought to be giving way to negative growth, that is, actual disinvestment leading to a process of cumulative de-industrialization. As Professor Neild expressed it in his letter to *The Times* yesterday, "the likelihood is that if the (free

trade) rules of the EEC continue to be applied, Britain will become within 10 years a derelict industrial area, with many factories closed down, industrial employment drastically reduced and no alternatives in prospect but emigration. A decline of this sort, once it starts, can be rapid."

The second change is loss of faith in devaluation as a mechanism for keeping Britain's manufacturing costs internationally competitive. Again in the words of Professor Neild, "except in conditions very favourable to wage stability—which we do not now enjoy—the stimulus it provides tends quickly to be eroded away by the inflation it generates." In addition, one discerns in Mr Cripps at least certain aversive loyalty to import quotas as practised by Sir Stafford Cripps when he was President of the Board of Trade and then Chancellor.

These developments of mainstream Kaldorianism, embellished by the rare quantitative arithmetical of Mr Wynne Godley, lead naturally enough to the characteristic Cambridge prescriptions, though allowance must be made for different nuances emphasised by different members of the school.

Peter Jay Economics Editor

Mr Godley, now also a consultant at the Treasury, is not particularly a socialist or a publicly declared anti-marketeer. Lord Kaldor and Professor Neild probably do not wholly endorse the particular model of pay inflation set forth in the recent *Economic Policy Review*. All of the economists have more time for market processes and signals than Mr Benn and less time for pure job-conservation.

But there is broad agreement that the Budget deficit must be sharply cut back over the next few years (hence presumably Mr Benn's acceptance of collective responsibility for the Budget), that import restrictions should be used to boost demand for British goods and so preserve high employment and that drastic measures are needed to arrest the decline in investment below the level needed even to maintain the nation's capital stock.

The broad assessment of Mr Benn's case must depend in part on comparison with some alternative strategy. But, first, one apparent internal inconsistency and a few obvious objections are worth noting. The inconsistency lies between the massive shift of resources from consumption to investment—equivalent to nearly 4 per cent of national output and nearly 6 per cent of private consumption—proposed by Mr Benn and the model of pay inflation set forth, mainly on Mr Cripps's initiative, in the Cambridge *Economic Policy Review*. If, as the Review argues, changes in the inflation rate are caused by the difference

between workers' planned increases in real earnings and the actually available increase in real earnings, then reducing the available increases in real earnings (post-tax) must increase the rate of inflation. Without highly artificial assumptions about private savings and/or about workers' indifference to the "social wage", resources cannot be shifted from consumption and public spending to investment without reducing real earnings. It is also doubtful whether government—or pension fund and insurance fund managers obliged to channel funds into manufacturing industry—can identify worthwhile investment opportunities which will add to the nation's true industrial capacity to earn its living in the world rather than just boost the investment statistics. And there is, moreover, the obvious fear that the extra funds will be used, not to enhance new commercially viable enterprises, but to set obsolescent jobs in taxpaying, and pensioners' aspic.

But what is the orthodox alternative to Mr Benn? Essentially an economic liberal would propose: fiscal and monetary restraint to squeeze inflation from the system; sterling devaluation to encourage export intervention to whatever extent necessary to achieve a safely financeable foreign payments deficit and, thereafter, to ensure a world market-clearing price for British exports (though labour monopolies or cartels could still cause unemployment); and sufficient financial incentives to savers, inventors, entrepreneurs, managers and workers to call forth the required effort and enterprise. In such conditions the market would ensure whatever degree and direction of industrial progress the basic endowments of skill, knowledge and resources of the British economy can achieve, according to the liberal economist.

The Cambridge school are prone to reply that the industrial slide is now so strongly established and the strength of organised labour so deeply entrenched that the economic liberal's new equilibrium would be reached only at some catastrophically low level of employment, living standards, industrialisation and the sterling exchange rate. Mr Benn adds that even the initial stages of such a process, let alone its culmination, are utterly without the political tolerances of our times and that therefore, if for no other reason, such a strategy is not worth considering.

It is doubtful whether existing economic knowledge can definitively resolve even the debate about there being a definable optimum level of employment, which deserves serious debate. Otherwise the field will be left free to those sectional interests and know-nothing ideologues whose political intelligence has advanced not a step beyond nineteenth century concepts of capitalism and socialism, which are about as relevant to the management of a modern economy in trouble as was the resolution of Zero's paradoxes to the progress of physics.

Business Diary: Carry on chartering • Longbridge's Robinson

House's Q&E today from New York under oilman John Shaw is currently selling British shipping companies for more than £100,000 a share. An associate of Nixon, has chartered for a week's sailing New York and Berkeley two round trips is being just about who is anybody to the opening of a capacity as chairman of the London Refining and Petrochemicals Co. Inc. Shaw the 255,900 ton super-London Pride on until 1984 from the London and Overseas Shipping Corporation at £2.42 per ton. Newfoundland is being LOF to accept a ton per month in fact, the second He chartered her last the celebration marking the opening of an oil refinery on By Chance, New d.

Messiah

is in the motor in particular. The land's nailing wait publication of the report today are provided perfect platform for Messiah of Longbridge-old Derek Robinson, ast year Robinson and his legendary Dick Eds as chief conveyor at biggest car plant

But outside the factory little is known of Robinson other than that he is a Communist. In fact, he should be better known, because he has unsuccessfully fought four general elections as the Communist candidate for Northfield, Birmingham, and constituency which includes Longbridge. Indeed, his last appearance led to a row between his own Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Transport and General Workers' because opposed their man, the present sitting Labour member, Ray Carter.

Robinson arrived at Longbridge in 1941 as a 14-year-old schoolboy apprentice. It was in the same year that Etheridge first became an AUEW shop steward. Before he retired last year, Etheridge had quickly groomed the burly six-foot son of a Black Country family of chain makers to be his successor.

But like Etheridge's famous public confrontations with Austin chief Leonard Lord, Robinson badly needs a cause célèbre to win his spurs. He has found two: the proposed formation of a shop stewards' committee to represent the whole of the motor industry—and the Ryder report.

At the same time he denounced Lord Stokes and John Barber, British Leyland's chairman and managing director, as "bloody incompetent" and "candidates for compulsory redundancy".

It was like watching the Etheridge of the 1950s all over again before Etheridge allowed to the extent that Lord Stokes gave him a plust dinner party when he retired and in turn was presented with one of Mr Etheridge's famous home-made Christmas puddings.

Sweetener

The nationalization of Demerara Holdings has not the far larger Booker McConnell plantations. Demerara is only 15 per cent as big as the Booker estates.

Demerara hired Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, the former Attorney-General, to negotiate compensation and it is thought that the Guyana Government wants talks completed quickly.

Sir Peter has recently been out to Guyana and has now gone back there.

Both sides are keeping their cards well hidden. Guyana has said it will not be bound by precedent, while Sir Peter will be armed with some notion of the value of the land, the buildings and machinery put on it and the worth of the sugar it produces.

There is plenty of room for bargaining here, and it may be wondered why Guyana wants to take over estates when, as in the case of Booker, it gets a lot of money by exacting levies on the crops. It seems that Guyana wants to learn about sugar estate management, which may be a chilling thought for Booker.

BP is a former IBM Computer man who once sold calculating machines in Vietnam. He opened his first Paris restaurant in 1957 after doing a computer analysis of the French market for European business sectors.

He is forecasting sales of 5,000m francs for his group in 1980 and profits of 125m francs against figures of 707m and 33m for last year. By then Borel will be the leading catering concern in Europe and will have eased its way into the top three world groups, by stock market value, Borel says.

Super-optimist

Jacques Borel, the continental caterer, lived up to his reputation as a "human computer" when he, and entourage, flew into London yesterday to talk about his group's future.

At the drop of a hat he was prepared to tell an audience of bankers, stockbrokers and financial journalists exactly what the sales and profits of Jacques Borel would be in 1980 and beyond, as well as every possible business ratio applying to 1974.

Borel has an undeclared commercial war on with Britain's Sir Charles Forte and yesterday was uttering veiled threats of having the financial muscle to launch a new Norman invasion of British catering.

Jacques Borel International's shares should be quoted in Beirut later this year. They were listed in London last year and although demand has been small from a few City institutions as yet, jobbers reported yesterday that United Kingdom investors, eager for non-storing securities, have started paying more attention to the shares.

PROSPECTS

The Group started 1975 with a record order book of £100 million. So far this year orders are holding up well for pumps, steel castings and aircraft equipment. Sales prospects are good for desalination plant.

In spite of many difficulties our operating budget for 1975 indicates a considerable improvement in profits.



Points from the Statement by the Hon W. K. J. Weir, Chairman of the Weir Group Limited, for the 52 weeks ended 27th December, 1974.

The economic climate was one of unrelenting difficulty in 1974. In spite of this, profits before interest and tax advanced by some 15%. After higher interest charges profit before tax showed a modest advance. Tax was high in relation to profits because of unrelieved tax losses in two Associate companies. Extraordinary items included a full provision of £903,000, partially offset by non-recurring credits for currency revaluation in respect of the 7½% Deutschmark loan.

The Board's decision to recommend payment of a maintained dividend was made in the light of the exceptional nature of the non-recurring losses in the Building Division and of the favourable current outlook for the Group.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Continued progress was made in the oil industry and important pump orders were booked for North Sea oilfields and for shore terminals. Substantial business was secured at home and abroad, especially in pumps for water supply schemes.

Our steel foundries had a successful year. There is no doubt that the Group's massive investment is beginning to justify itself in improved efficiency and productivity. Demand for castings for oil production, mining, natural gas and nuclear engineering is particularly strong.

In 1974 our companies in the hydraulic and pneumatic seal industry made good progress, as did our pattermaking companies. The aircraft equipment companies showed much improved results.

Although desalination is a very competitive market it is rapidly developing into a major part of our business and we intend to maintain our position as the leading company in the field. Apart from two companies our Associates contributed substantial profits. The total contribution of our overseas companies was a record.

	1974 £'000s	1973 £'000s
TURNOVER	89,150	78,063
Profit before interest and tax	6,524	5,686
Interest	3,800	2,729
Profit before tax	3,024	2,957
Tax	1,797	1,005
Profit after tax	1,227	1,952
Profit attributable to minority interests	173	131
Profit before extraordinary items	1,054	1,821
Deduct extraordinary items	788	607
Profit attributable to shareholders	266	1,214
Dividends—3.85p per share (1973: same)	694	694
Earnings per share	5.8p	10.1p
Shareholders' Capital and Reserves	19,882	20,168

Weir Group—pumps, power plant auxiliaries, valves, steel castings, metal pattern equipment, hydraulic and pneumatic seals, aircraft equipment, water desalination plant. Group companies, employing 12,000, in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa, France, Italy, Spain and Holland.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, The Weir Group Limited, Cathcart, Glasgow G44 4EX.

WEIR
THE WEIR GROUP LIMITED

Two British groups to join in Iran projects

By Edward Townsend

Two British companies, the Alfred Herbert machine tool group and Bridon, formerly British Ropes, have successfully negotiated participation agreements in important Iranian industrial development projects.

Herbert, whose future as Britain's leading machine tool manufacturer is in the hands of the Government, has won an interest in the expansion of Iran's machine tool industry and has already received an order for machines worth more than £1m.

The agreement, reached with Iran's Industrial Development and Renovation Organization, covers the manufacture under licence of Herbert machine tools by the state-owned Machine Sazi Tahriz company and joint technical and marketing activity.

Mr Neale Raine, Herbert's chief executive, described the agreement as an important breakthrough for United Kingdom industry. Herbert has already carried out a preliminary survey of Machine Sazi in preparation for adapting manufacturing technology. Iranian engineers are to be trained at Herbert's Coventry and Birmingham plants.

According to Herbert, the new agreement could lead to future cooperation and support

from Iran in advanced development of machine tools.

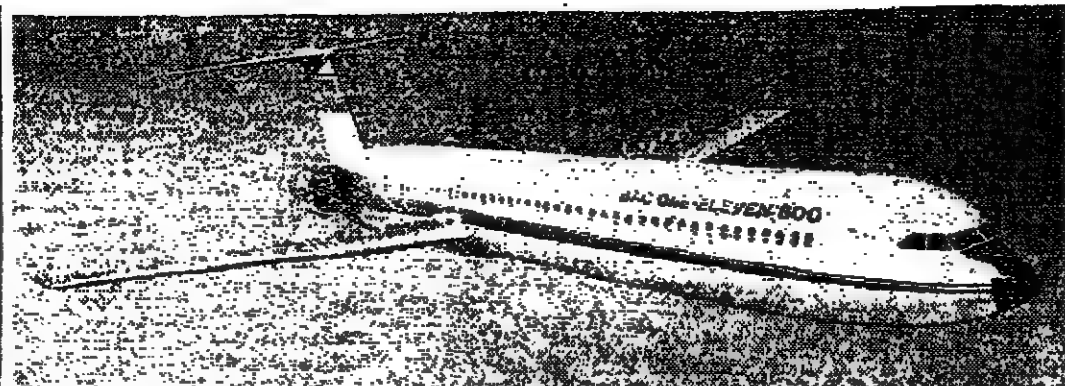
The Bridon deal covers a project for the manufacture of high tensile wire and wire rope in conjunction with the Industrial Credit Bank of Iran and Mr Hashem Farhang, a Tehran businessman.

Bridon and Mr Farhang are to be the principle shareholders in a new company with the bank providing the majority of the loan capital. The first phase of the project will cost £3m and the total cost is estimated at £7.5m. Bridon's share of the equity will be 35 per cent, costing £535,000 during the first phase.

The new company will be chiefly engaged in the manufacture of wire for prestressed concrete, bedding and sealing, industrial springs and aluminium conductors, and wire rope for the construction, oil, water drilling and general engineering industries.

Bridon said yesterday that the initial capacity of the new plant would be 10,000 tons a year of wire, wire rope and strand products. This is to be phased to meet increasing demand in the Iranian market and is also intended to offer attractive opportunities for exports.

The new company is scheduled to begin manufacture early next year.



The BAC quieter 1-11 800 series which would be powered with foreign engines.

New BAC 1-11 uses foreign engine

By Arthur Reed

British Aircraft Corporation yesterday unveiled a new version of their 1-11 family of airliners, the series 800, using for the first time a foreign engine instead of the traditional Rolls-Royce Spey.

It is proposed by BAC that the General Electric/Snecma CFM 56 turbofan, an engine being jointly developed by the United States and France, should power the series 800.

The engine, two development versions of which are running, one in America and one in France, would be bought "off the shelf" by BAC for the 800, if the £50m needed to develop the airframe from the existing 1-11 series were forthcoming from the British Government. The series 800 could prove

to be one of a family of European airliners for the future being planned by BAC, Hawker Siddeley and aircraft manufacturing companies in France, West Germany and Italy for the closing years of this century.

All are based on well-proven existing aircraft, so in the present time of economic stringency, airlines are shy of ordering high-cost new models.

The aircraft would carry up to 160 passengers over a maximum range of 2,400 miles. BAC executives claimed yesterday that in fuel consumption and noise "footprints" on the ground it would be better than any of the latest-generation wide-body airliners, including the quietest of them all at present, the European A300 Airbus.

They saw a world market, or

up to 750, for this type of aircraft up to the middle 1980s, of which BAC could win 25 per cent. The new airliner had been offered to airlines all over the world, and 40 to 50 orders would be needed before a decision to go ahead was made.

At the same time, BAC was offering a 700 series 1-11 with up to 134 seats and powered by two Rolls-Royce 606 engines, a developed, and quieter version of the engine which at present powers the 200 1-11s in service. India is to buy three A300 European Airbus, each able to carry 317 passengers and with a range of 1,500 miles, according to reports from Delhi. The decision means that for the first time India is buying airliners other than wholly British or of United States makes.

Burma state oil company seeks backing from City

By William Gillen

Burma's national oil company is seeking loans in Britain to develop big oil fields in central Burma and to finance offshore exploration and drilling programmes.

The Burmese want the money for three major fields in the interior and have approached one merchant bank in the City, and possibly several others.

Underwriting Burmese oil exploitation is being considered but apparently no decisions have been taken. Burma is also seeking finance from the United States and in Arab countries.

The amount they are seeking is between £600m and £800m. The Burmese consider there is no real risk because of the immense riches in their offshore oil fields.

A mission from the Burmese government and Myanma Oil Corporation of Rangoon, the national company, was in London last week. The Burmese are also seeking experts from British and American oil companies to develop the fields.

The three fields in the interior are Yanagang, Singu and Minbu, according to the commercial section of the Burmese Embassy in London.

Oil experts say that Burma has one of the greatest oil potentials of any country in South East Asia, including China, where big discoveries have recently been made, and Indonesia which is already prominent as an oil-rich nation.

Burma is also carrying out extensive offshore exploration, so far with no major finds. They have seismic evidence, however, of rich oil potential in the coastal seabed.

Offshore work is easy, compared with the North Sea because the water is shallow and weather conditions are ideal.

Development of the Burmese oil industry has had a chequered career. Rich fields were destroyed by retreating British forces in 1942.

Since the war developments have often been held up by political uncertainty, and guerrilla warfare. Various companies have been taken over by the Burmese government in setting up the national oil company, and this has apparently caused further considerable delays.

Burma is now anxious to make full use of its oil because of the serious economic condition of the country.

Renault may outsell Datsun in Britain

By Business News Staff

Renault is expected to displace Datsun this month as the leading importer of foreign cars into the United Kingdom. It will be the first time since last November that the Japanese manufacturer has not held the leading position.

Last month Renault captured 4.96 per cent of the British car market, and it is thought that increased sales this month have boosted the company's penetration to almost 7 per cent.

The switch will not add weight to the continuing complaints from the British industry that Japanese cars are being dumped in this country.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has put together a case against the Japanese which it intends to present to the Government, but declined yesterday to reveal details.

Although Toyota has stated its hope of expanding its car sales in this country this year by 50 per cent, Datsun has adopted a more cautious attitude with a plan to sell slightly fewer than its 1974 total of 58,758 cars.

Datsun is thought to be preparing for another price rise in Britain next month which could also undermine the dumping allegations. The company's stocks of unsold cars in this country is believed to be only one month's supply, or about 6,000 cars.

Present fuel economy can save UK £250m

Present fuel economies could save £250m on the balance of payments in a full year, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, told a parliamentary sub-committee yesterday.

Energy consumption from December to February was 7.2 per cent lower than in the same period two years ago, he said.

"While some of this drop is certainly due to the warmer weather and lower industrial activity, it may well be half of the 7 per cent can be ascribed to energy savings", Mr Varley added.

He rejected what he called a policy of "gloom and doom" involving switching off city floodlighting and illuminated advertisements.

Mr Alex Fletcher, Conservative MP for Edinburgh, North, said it was bad psychology, if housewives were asked to save fuel, for Piccadilly Circus advertisements to be lit up in mid afternoon.

Mr Varley replied that the total saving from switching off the illuminated advertisements would be infinitesimal compared with the energy used in the country.

Some buildings were flooded as a tourist attraction, and some for security reasons. The substantial savings would come from industry, he added.

District heating: By the end of the century Britain could prove to have wasted billions of pounds on imported fuel because it had become accustomed to squandering energy in the years when the world had a surplus of cheap

fuel, Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, said yesterday.

Speaking at the first national conference on district heating at Brighton, he added: "The remedy to the threat of the new energy situation lies in our own hands."

"I am glad to be associated with the Government's advisory council on energy conservation with the national campaign to cut energy consumption and to look for long term economies through policies which will aim at more efficient use of our indigenous supplies and so enable us to reduce and hopefully, eliminate the need for imports which are currently adding £3,000m a year to our overseas trade deficit."

Sir Derek said district heating had flourished in the Scandinavian countries, but Britain had been slow in following their example. However, study tours on the continent and in the United States by British consulting engineers in the 1960s had resulted in the gradual establishment in the United Kingdom of group and district heating.

More than 400 schemes—large and small—are now operating in Britain", Sir Derek added.

It was encouraging that if Central Electricity Generating Board had been energetical studying the feasibility of combined heat and power stations designed to optimise the use of heat that would otherwise go to waste in cooling water.

British Mohair Spinners

Dividend held in difficult year

Trading—in 1974 the Group experienced some of the worst trading conditions it has known for many years. However, the Board is recommending an effectively unchanged total distribution of 13.56p gross.

Prospects—Although trading in 1975 will still be difficult, we are going ahead with our plans for modernisation of buildings and machinery. This will enable the Group to take immediate advantage of any recovery in world trade.

T.W. Hibbert, Chairman.



	1974 Results
Turnover	£13,478,000
Net profit before taxation	£821,000
Earnings per Ordinary Share	3.43p
Net dividend per Ordinary Share	2.27p
Tangible asset value per Ordinary Share	52.25p

HUGH MACKAY

and Company Limited

Manufacturers of High Quality 'Durham' Carpets

Mr. John Mackay reports

	1974	1973
TURNOVER (net invoiced sales)	£6,450,810	£6,298,022
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	462,959	930,493
PROFIT AFTER TAX	180,959	430,493
Earnings per Ordinary Share	3.74p	8.90p
Dividend per Ordinary Share (including associated tax credit)	4.20p	3.78p

• Sales volume was equal in each half of 1974 and thus demonstrates our achievement in

the second half when trading conditions were known to be deteriorating.

• We were encouraged by our ability to increase exports by nearly 70%, thus to cushion the drop in home market sales which was aggravated by legislation to curb demand at home.

• We have modern plant and building, considerable expertise in designing, weaving and selling quality carpets and, being financially sound, the company is firmly based to invest further and in the appropriate direction as circumstances present themselves.

• We are working to develop those markets and products which will progressively be to our advantage as the clouds lift around the world.

Carpet Factory, P.O. Box No. 1, Freeman's Place, Durham City

The East Asiatic Company Limited, Copenhagen

Annual Report 1974

Introduction

Already towards the close of 1973 the favourable world trade conditions had turned into a period of instability particularly actuated by the events surrounding the supplies of oil from the Middle East countries. In the course of 1974 a marked weakening set in which by the end of the year had assumed recessionlike proportions with serious impact on international economic life.

This development has made itself felt also in our own country where, regrettably, in recent years costs have been allowed to rise without restriction, thereby impairing our competitiveness and at the same time bringing about a serious unemployment situation.

Thanks to the Company's diversified global operations, the setback which has been experienced in certain areas of trade and industry, has been offset by other activities, notably through increased earnings in shipping where the return is now more in line with the considerable investments involved, for example in containerization.

The Group turnover has increased from kr 17,500 million in 1973 to kr 18,800 million in 1974. Approximately 88% of the turnover is derived from activities outside Denmark.

Having regard to the large depreciations effected on the fleet in earlier years, it has not been deemed necessary to provide additional extraordinary depreciations this year. However, an amount of kr 100 million has been set aside to a special fund to meet possible extraordinary risks in the light of the difficult economic conditions which are prevailing and which may prove to be of long duration.

The Parent Company's net result for 1974 is a profit of kr 102.9 million, compared with kr 106.8 million the previous year. The result is arrived at after deduction of depreciation on ships, buildings, etc., and company taxes amounting to kr 110.1 million.

With the addition of kr 16.5 million brought forward from the previous

Extracts from the Chairman's speech at the Annual General Meeting in Copenhagen on 25th March, 1975.

Again this year, a consolidated balance sheet for the EAC group of companies has been drawn up. In addition to this year for the first time also publishing a profit and loss account for the group as a whole, comprising 187 companies of which 158 are registered abroad.

The group results after taxes amount to kr 224 million in 1974 compared with kr 243 million in the previous year, showing an increase of kr 51 million. However, after providing for extraordinary depreciation on the Company's ships of nearly kr 100 million in 1973 there is, as will be seen, a certain decrease compared with the previous year. This reflects the setbacks experienced by some of our group companies in 1974, as referred to in the Annual Report, including in particular the wool trading company Bloch & Behrens and our food processing and canning industries.

In 1974 world trade conditions generally have been unfavourable, especially during the last six months of the year. In spite of this our Company has succeeded in obtaining satisfactory results, due not least to our shipping activities where we are now beginning to reap the fruits of the introduction of our modern container vessels.

Before I answer possible questions from the assembly, it will no doubt interest you to hear how we evaluate the prospects for 1975.

As stated in the Annual Report now before us, the weakening in world trade conditions assumed recessionlike proportions towards the end of the year under review, and no signs of improvement are yet in sight. This has in particular been noticeable in our own country where we have been experiencing steep rises in costs to

year, the amount at disposal totals kr 119.4 million, which it is proposed to appropriate in accordance with the profit & loss statement, page XI, including distribution to shareholders of a dividend of 12%, equivalent to kr 60 million.

Copies of the full Report are available on request.

the detriment of the competitiveness of Danish industry. It is to be expected that the present adverse world trade conditions cannot help but affect the Company's shipping activities in 1975 having regard to the already declining freight market. Also here the weak US Dollar, to which most freight rates are tied, has had an adverse influence.

Fortunately, however, there are some encouraging prospects in other parts of the world, of which I shall restrict myself to mention only a few.

In North America, the forest industry on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada, is still benefiting from a reasonably satisfactory price level for pulp, whereas the timber market continues to be weak.

In South America, the rapid development is continuing in Brazil. Activities in this area are being intensified, and prospects look promising.

In Africa, Nigeria, in particular—thanks especially to the considerable production of oil—is undergoing a period of strong expansion, in which our organization, E.T. Briscoe (Nigeria) Limited, takes an active part. The country's increasing activities and growing imports, however, are causing considerable difficulties for the shipping trade because of the still inadequate port facilities, but the development towards containerization will no doubt prove advantageous here as well.

With regard to Asia, it is very gratifying to note that the Far Eastern countries, in which our Company has considerable interests, have only been affected to a smaller degree by the weakening world trade conditions. The initiative and zeal which is typical of these countries have proved an ef-

fective bulwark against the economic setback.

All in all, the outlook for our overseas branches and associated companies is of course varied, but we are convinced that our Company's diversification and geographical spread will see us through the difficult trade conditions which we are experiencing. We intend to pursue our present policy—

with particular emphasis on developing and modernizing our fleet, and intensifying the industrial activities abroad—and we are confident that also in 1975 it will be possible for our Company to show reasonable results of our efforts.

Group Profit and Loss Account for 1974

	1974 (1,000 kr)	1973 (1,000 kr)
Turnover	18,768,629	17,545,776
External turnover	14,718,718	13,637,103
Internal turnover	4,054,913	3,908,673
	18,768,629	17,545,776
Result of Activities		
Turnover and result of activities derive from:		
Shipping	1,384,330	138,423
Trade	7,105,702	249,212
Industry	5,491,594	388,623
Forest and plantation industry	867,172	188,712
Miscellaneous income	84,818	32,257
	14,718,718	1,065,105
Dividend on investments outside the Group	15,141	8,979
	1,583,961	1,074,084
Administration expenses	281,714	237,275
Profit before Depreciations	871,977	836,809
Depreciations	214,394	308,639
Profit before Financing Expenses	657,583	528,170
Financing expenses	206,662	189,100
	450,921	339,070
Extraordinary expenses and income	20,048	23,194
Profit before Taxation	421,863	421,863
Corporation tax	127,289	158,344
Group Result for the Year	294,574	263,519
Minority shareholders' share in the results of subsidiary companies	101,906	98,480
The East Asiatic Company, Limited's share in the Group Result	192,668	165,039
(before allocation of D.kr 100 million to the Parent Company's 'special contingency fund')		

Head office: 2, Holbergsgade, DK-1099 Copenhagen K., Denmark



Statement to Shareholders by the Chairman of Tube Investments Ltd.

British Industry, the real dangers

Lord Plowden attacks "A recipe for industrial stagnation and national decline".

In my last three Statements I have found it necessary to call attention to the severe burden that inflation imposes, particularly on the manufacturing sector of industry, merely to finance the increase in value of working capital associated with existing volume of output, let alone finance expansion.

Inflation and Squeeze

When the Conservative Government towards the end of 1972 reversed its previous course and introduced a statutory price and incomes policy I said that although the measures would involve rough justice they would have our full support if they reduced the inflation rate, since this would in itself remove the principal worry affecting the business world.

In the event, the introduction of the prices and incomes policy which we had hoped would ease the difficulties caused by inflation has turned out to be the beginning of a period of severe squeeze on industry. The statutory control of prices has imposed severe restraints on companies without any matching restraint in demands for higher pay. This combination has reduced the liquidity and profitability of industry to the point where investment is declining, unemployment is increasing, and many firms will fail or come under the control of the Government, which has itself caused many of the troubles.

It must be acknowledged that in his Budget of November 1974 the Chancellor recognised the need to allow industry to retain paper profits arising from inflationary increases in stock values. This was a most welcome relief and we hope that the temporary arrangement based on deferment of tax will be succeeded by permanent and comprehensive reform following the report of the Sandilands Committee.

The Inflexible Straitjacket

However this taxation relief cannot be fully effective so long as statutory price control operates to prevent the earning of adequate profits. Despite minor relaxations the price code is still an extremely inflexible straitjacket. The product price controls are based on movement in unit cost of production. One consequence is that in a period of high volume of output the effect of volume in reducing unit cost is an offset to rising material and wage costs, so that profits are held back. Another consequence is that any reduction in unit costs resulting from some improvement to equipment or production methods is also a deduction from rising material and wage costs. Despite this, a further 20 per cent of wage cost increases is disallowed as a so-called productivity deduction. In effect companies are penalised for achieving the productivity improvements that the legislation was designed to encourage.

On top of the product price control is the further overall constraint of profit margin reference levels. These impose a control of percentage profit on sales based on a time several years ago when the inflation rate was at levels that would now be regarded as negligible, and stock appreciation is included in profits for the purposes of this control.

Outdated Rules

It must surely be wrong for this country to enter the second half of this decade with industry attempting to operate within insensitive arithmetical constraints based on the general business situation and on particular company performances going as far back as 1963. Even if the rules were administered with some flexibility their whole basis must become increasingly unrealistic. In the national interest price control should be abolished. It is my hope that by the time these words are read the Chancellor will have followed up his sensible taxation relief in his November 1974 Budget by abolishing price control in his April 1975 Budget.

To the business world it seems as if the objective of the tax system is to extract the maximum of tax from companies and from investors who provide risk capital, rather than to give any consideration to the most efficient way of ensuring a reasonable supply of funds for the investment the country so much needs.

All the Worst Taxes

The operation of corporation tax, the investment income surcharge, capital gains tax and now the prospective wealth and capital transfer taxes, on top of a fiercely progressive tax on all

Why I speak out

In his statement Lord Plowden gives his qualifications for speaking out about industry and the politicians.

It is time industry spoke out and from the experience of a lifetime in commerce, government service and industry I venture to do so. For the past 12 years I have been Chairman of a major industrial company. Before that I was the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority. I was a Treasury official and Chief Economic Planner both to Socialist and Conservative Governments. During the war I was head of various production Departments in the Ministry of Aircraft Production, of which I ultimately became Chief Executive. And before the war I was a salesman of electronic and chemical products.

Thus I have seen industry as an industrialist and a Government official, in each case both from senior and junior positions. In the course of my career I have worked for, and seen at close quarters, politicians of both parties. Industrial management in my experience would emerge favourably from a comparison.

I have also had considerable experience of companies operating overseas, and can say with confidence that a great part of British management compares favourably with that to be found abroad, despite the fact that conditions in many other countries are less onerous than those which we face at home.

In my own experience, the level of management has improved greatly over the last 10 years. I say this from direct observation gained from almost weekly visits to your works at home and abroad, and from my acquaintance with the young men who pass through the London Business School, of which I am Chairman. Could incompetent management have achieved in 1971 exports of 23% of Gross Domestic Product for the UK compared with 22% for Germany and 12% for Japan? That was a year when the economy was not overloaded and management could demonstrate their efficiency unimpeded by incompetent management of the economy.

incomes — these taken together are a burden which has dangerous implications for our future. Other countries have some of these taxes but very few have them all. There is a real danger that Britain may end up with the worst features of each.

We strongly support the C.B.I.'s proposal for a thorough review of the tax system, preferably by Royal Commission. We would particularly urge that there is an inherent contradiction in offering successive ad hoc tax incentives and reliefs in favour of particular classes of expenditure (e.g. on plant and machinery and stocks) unless there is at the same time some sensible and reasonable review of the tax burdens which are currently levied on the income from the savings which must provide a vital part of the funds required to finance the expenditure in question.

Creeping Nationalisation

While industry is constrained and handicapped in all these ways the Industry Bill threatens rescue and support for those who have proved for one reason or another less able to survive in these testing conditions, and to compete with a bottomless purse against efficient companies. This is a recipe for industrial stagnation and national decline. The powers the Bill proposes for the Secretary of State for Industry and the National Enterprise Board to acquire profitable companies in whole or in part represent a real threat of creeping nationalisation.

Experience of State ownership in this country does not suggest to any objective observer that it improves the efficiency or industrial relations performance of the industry or company concerned. Nationalisation has tended to inhibit changes in industrial structure and activity which are necessary for our future as a major industrial and economic force, because Government finds itself exposed to pressures to prevent rationalisation or modernisation programmes that might mean reduced employment in the short term. Nor is there any evidence that the great majority of workers want any more of it.

The other important objectionable feature of the Industry Bill is the provision for compulsory disclosure of company plans to Government and to the Unions.

Uncertainty, Speculation, Unrest

The broad intentions of major companies which are of interest to Government when they formulate their own plans are normally discussed with Government already on a voluntary basis. However, there are relatively few areas of any business in which plans can be formulated in the detail and with the precision implied by the disclosure provisions of the Industry Bill.

Circumstances, and opportunities change and several options with different implications may have to be kept open to a late stage. Intentions reported in good faith could be interpreted as commitments, and compulsory disclosure of hypothetical "information" might well lead to uncertainty, speculation, and needless concern and unrest. The proposal to take powers for compulsory disclosure of such "information" to Government and Unions betrays a total lack of appreciation of the practical problems of managing industry efficiently and competitively.

Responsible Unions Outflanked

Politicians of all parties have been suggesting for years, and particularly recently, that industry has let the country down, and this is one of the reasons put forward for the Industry Bill. Of course industrial management can be improved. But it is far more up-to-date than our antiquated Trade Union structure, which is completely unable to enforce a common policy, so that small groups can now disrupt the whole economy with consequences doing most harm to the great majority of workers themselves, while politicians stand idly by. Moderate and responsible union leaders are constantly out-flanked by irresponsible and militant minorities often acting for political motives.

The main difficulty with which management has to contend is with politicians. It is not industry which is responsible for the alternations of Stop and Go, or for the steady inroads on company liquidity, both of which create a climate in which it is surprising that industry invests as much as it does.

Confidence Eroded

It is not industry which overloads the economy to the point where any increase in exports brings in compensating and more expensive imports; nor is it industry which is constantly pushing up home costs and thus undermining our competitive position in overseas markets, often achieved with great effort. We would all like more investment and more exports, but the confidence needed for both of them is continually eroded by chopping and changing of Government policies.

Another issue of great importance to the future of British Industry is UK membership of EEC. Like most of industry TI is adapting its operations to the opportunities and challenges provided by UK membership and like most of industry we believe strongly that our continued membership is in the best interests of the economy and of the country. I have always thought that it was the right policy for Britain to join the EEC. Our trading relationships with the rest of the world, and especially the Commonwealth, were becoming restricted even prior to joining.

Disastrous to leave EEC

Before entry, however, it was possible to contend that the arguments for or against entry were not too unevenly balanced. But in my view it would now be quite disastrous to try and retrace our steps, which it is no longer possible for us realistically to tread. Our former partners have made other arrangements and it is their own wish that we should remain in.

I wish to call your attention to a small donation which qualified as political. It is one of £1,000 to the Centre for Policy Studies. This was established to study what is called the social market economy. Its followers believe that a strong private enterprise sector operating under competitive conditions makes for the most effective use of resources and that the alternative is an all-pervading bureaucracy which the great majority of people would not want if they understood the real issues. They hope themselves that the Centre can contribute to a better understanding of what is involved.

As will be evident from this statement, I believe that the whole future of British private industry is now under question and that there is a real danger of its demise. I think therefore that the study of the issues and a campaign for public education about them should be supported on as wide a basis as possible.

Telling the TI team

In TI we have been increasingly conscious of the need to keep our employees at all levels informed of what we are doing and of changes that are being made, particularly when these are likely to affect their conditions of work or their jobs.

The main effort has been at the local level where we have encouraged the setting up of joint committees with management to discuss the economic situation in each company, and other matters that affect our employees' livelihood at work. For the last two years we have also published a special edition of our house magazine, the TI Magazine, summarising the information in this annual report.

This year we are making a special attempt to explain TI's financial results and situation in a way which we hope will be understandable and of interest to all employees. I doubt whether the amount of information given to employees and the degree of disclosure now undertaken, not only by TI but by most progressive companies, is properly appreciated by Government and the general public.

In a most difficult year I wish to thank all in the offices and on the shop floor who helped to overcome the many difficulties and contributed to our successful performance.

The rights issue

So long as present conditions obtain there is no possibility of manufacturing industry generating and retaining sufficient funds to be self-financing. TI has sustained its level of activities and investment in recent times by increased borrowing; but this process cannot continue indefinitely.

We concluded the time had come to increase our risk capital and equity base and have invited shareholders to subscribe £13.8m by way of a rights issue.

Prospects

A strength of the Group is its counter-cyclical diversity of products and markets which should enable profits to be maintained at about recent levels, at least for the first half of 1975. The economic uncertainties make it difficult to look much further ahead.

The results

In a year which began with the three day week and ended with recession conditions in most of the western world I think it can reasonably be claimed that TI's performance was commendable.

The Group had a substantial cash requirement over the year arising principally from increases in working capital which was met by additional borrowings. Despite this we maintained the higher level of capital expenditure we had planned for 1974. Among the most successful parts of the Group during the year were those where we have made substantial capital investment over recent years, notably the Steel Tube Division.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1974 £'000	1973 £'000
External Sales	*502,453	405,101
Trading Profit	45,699	36,762
Profit before Tax	41,055	33,669
Taxation	21,185	15,924
Earnings for the Year	18,256	16,587
Earnings per Share (Basic)	48.4p	44.2p
*£220 million sales to overseas customers of which £24 million were exports from the UK.		
No. of Employees in the UK	53,000	
No. of Shareholders	47,500	



Tube Investments Limited

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Spillers slump over 30 pc as baking business loses £7m

By Desmond Quigley

Spillers, the milling and pet foods group, have turned in disappointing final results with pre-tax profits down 31.3 per cent from £10.7m to £7.35m on a 27 per cent increase in turnover, up from £409m to £519m for the year to February 1.

A notable feature of the preliminary figures was a drop in profits from associated companies from £1.47m to £801,000, which compares with an announced first half profit of £767,000. The main reason was the exclusion from the final result of any profits from the National Milling Company in

Zambia, in which Spillers has a 24.5 per cent stake. Mr Michael Vernon, Spillers chairman, said that any profits had been excluded because a promised subsidy from the Zambian Government had not yet been forthcoming. An announcement was hoped for shortly which should release profits of £589,000.

The final dividend will be the same as last year at 2.5p a share, giving a total of 3.5p for the year, again similar to the previous year. Earnings per share slipped to 2.76p from 4.07p.

Apart from the Zambian situation, the company last year

faced sizable losses on the bakery side as well as higher interest charges. Interest on bank overdrafts and short-term loans cost £5.53m, against £3.02m the previous year, although there was an improvement in the second half.

Describing the final figures as "ghostly", Mr Vernon said the bakery side had lost nearly £7m during the year. The bakery workers' strike had accounted for £800,000, while the rest of the loss was attributable to Price Code regulations. The company's shares dipped 2p following the final announcement, leaving the group capitalised at £48m.

Sharp turnaround in second half for News Int

A feature of the full year results of News International, the newspaper group which publishes *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, is the strong resurgence in profits in the second half. This helped the group recover somewhat from the disastrous first half when profits were more than halved. None the less, Mr Rupert Murdoch, the chairman, stresses that the overall profitability was not sufficient to either finance capital developments or maintain the real value of dividends.

Group taxable profits for 1974 showed a 36 per cent fall from £10.3m to £6.5m—the second half showing a fall of 12 per cent from £5.63m to £5m and the first a fall from £4.67m to £1.51m. Turnover ended showing a 22 per cent gain from £79.4m to £96.8m, the second half accounting for a 25 per cent rise from £41.9m to £52.3m.

The total dividend is being raised from 10.03p to 10.42p with a final payment of 5.29p. Group reserves have been increased by £6.1m from a revaluation of the group's principal commercial freehold properties.

Casino side does less well for J Coral

A reverse in the fortunes of the casino division of the J. Coral betting and gaming group, coupled with the need to make special provisions against the fall in property values in an associate company, caused a downturn in profits for 1974. Pre-tax profits are down from £5.02m to £4.52m and the attributable profit is down from £2.2m to £1.8m and earnings a share from 14.3p to 11.2p. Turnover increased from £106m to £134m.

The first three months of

1975 have produced a rise in turnover from £29m to £30m, and in trading profit from £1.1m to £1.4m. Pre-tax profits show an increase from £1m to £1.28m, while the attributable is £514,000, against £455,000.

The bookmaking division has been hit by the effects of bad weather on race meetings, but the board reports that margins have been good, and satisfactory profits earned.

The directors think that the improved quarterly trend will be maintained.

Weir set to beat £3m

In spite of difficulties the operating budget of the Weir Group indicates a considerable improvement in profits, Mr William Weir, chairman, writes in his review. Last year the group earned just over £3m pre-tax.

This year has started with a strong order book, but an adverse factor is that wage inflation is at a much higher rate than that affecting foreign competitors. It is going to be

increasingly difficult, therefore, to remain competitive abroad at current exchange rates and the pricing of long-term contracts is becoming "increasingly hazardous and difficult", Mr Weir adds.

What is needed in the longer term is a practical and consistent government policy worked out in cooperation with industry to create economic strength and prosperity, he adds.

Stock markets

Gains reversed in heavy trading

The stock market had another busy session yesterday, with gains again weak and equities finally running into some profit taking after one of the heaviest days' trade on record.

Share prices opened the day with a further upsurge which carried the FT index to 363.9. Property shares again attracted the substantial buying interest, with banking and insurance shares also soaring ahead. The suspension of shares in BLMC at 6p ahead of publication of the Ryder report—had little effect on the rest of the market. Nor did the press reports that Mr

which benefited from a further rise in the investment dollar premium to 108 per cent. Philips Lamp and Unilever NV were both firmer with the premium, which also boosted gold shares again.

But shares in Unilever Ltd fell steadily in response to the chairman's comments at the annual meeting, to close a net 16p down at 368p. ICI rose to 262p initially, in spite of the bearish statement which accompanied fund raising in the United States, but later fell to 250p, a net 8p lower. Courtaulds ended 5p off at 120p, Bats 7p down at 305p and Bowater 8p down at 145p. The pattern was the same throughout the market.

The first hour saw a further rush for property shares. But MEPC closed 9p down at 200p after 227p, and Land Securities 4p off at 225p after 252p.

Oil shares too were overborne by the profit takers, but losses were small. Gold shares raced ahead again behind the dollar premium. Gains of £1 and more lifted FS Geduld to £29, P-Brand to £23 and F. Steya to £19. De Beers (284p) were strong among diamonds. Equity turnover on April 22 £17.3m (32,084 bargains).

Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were: Unilever, ICI, National Westminster, Bats, Bors, Great Universal Stores "A", Barclays Bank, Marks & Spencer, Shell and Lough.

Beecham Group's shares slipped 2p to 264p yesterday but they have risen from 116p earlier this year and now yield only 2.6 per cent. If markets hold up, there should be little trouble in making a large and attractive rights issue.

Gilt suffered a sharp reverse, with all sections of the market showing large losses. Dealers said that it was difficult to pinpoint a special factor, although the recent fall in interest rates seems to have lost its impetus for the time being.

"Shorts" opened easier and were hit by continuous selling almost from the outset. The market tended to be one-way and prices closed at the bottom. Losses ranged up to 1 point. "Longs" were barely steady at the opening and also lost ground steadily. Here too losses were generally of 1 to 1 point.

Latest dividends

Company	Div	Year	Year	Prev
(and per value)	div	ago	ago	year
Actuary & Mabley (Sp) Fin	0.87	0.77	10/6	1.31
Danish Bacon (El) Fin	4.21	3.4	—	9.43
Delta Metal (2Sp) Fin	3.48	3.15	13/6	6.18
De Vere Hotels (2Sp) Fin	3.0	2.5	1/7	8.50
Fairview Estates (1Sp) Fin	4.06	4.02	—	7.07
Francis Inns (2Sp) Fin	2.36	2.1	—	3.94
Gill & Duffus (2Sp) Fin	2.35	2.33	1/7	5.29
Jameson's (1Sp) Fin	1.08	2.4	1/7	3.7
Jesset Toyne (2Sp) Fin	4.8	3.91	28/5	6.1
Judge Int (2Sp) Int	0.67	0.67	30/5	5.17
Kuala Selangor (1Sp) Fin	1.95	1.75	17/6	1.95
Leisure Org (2Sp) Fin	1.01	1.74	1/7	2.27
Naim Williams (El) Fin	3.37	3.37	5/6	5.56
News Int (2Sp) Fin	5.29	5.03	13/6	10.42
Ready Mixed (1Sp) Fin	1.84	3.46	—	5.12
Root Harvesters (1Sp) Fin	1.53	1.5	14/6	2.53
Geo. G. Sandeman (2Sp) Fin	2.02	2.23	—	3.51
Wm. Simth (2Sp) Fin	5.17	5.39	7/7	4.38
Smith St Asphalts (2Sp) Fin	4.38	4.6	4/6	6.11
Spillers (2Sp) Fin	2.5	2.5	2/7	3.5
Totalisator (Sp)	0.81	0.73	24/6	0.81

Toughest trading for 30 years sees Fairview dip to £2.6m

By Tony May

The most difficult trading conditions since the Second World War are reflected in the 1974 results of Fairview Estates. Turnover has doubled to £18.4m, but although trading profits are up from £3.5m to £4.4m, pre-tax profits are down from a record £1.6m to £2.59m, after writing £1.8m (against £274,000) off the book value of developments.

At the net level, profits are £1.07m, against £1.59m, and earnings a share have fallen from 15.3p to 9.8p. Shareholders will receive a payment of 7.07p, against 6.82p, although at the

net level payments are maintained at 4.65p.

On a brighter note, Mr Cope, the group's chairman, states that house sales for a current term will show a substantial increase on 1973. Planned additions to the company's rent roll have been achieved through the industrial and commercial developments. At December, the roll stood at £668,000—an increase of £114,000 on the previous year—but forward lettings have been contracted on buildings scheduled for completion so that this will increase the roll by a further £215,000.

BSR awaits outcome of higher VAT levy

With most of the products of BSR's consumer products division in the lower price range, it is possible that sales of small appliances will not be hit by the VAT increases as severely as more highly priced products. But for this increase the chairman thinks the division would have continued the upward trend in sales and profits of the past two years or so.

Meanwhile, the order intake of the sound reproduction division has continued to grow

particularly from North America and Japan, and it is thought second half sales will better first. Prices of the group's products have increased throughout the world but rate of inflation at home makes it difficult if not impossible to recover cost-increases in full.

With regard to the increased borrowing powers the board have no intention at present of utilizing these other than to cope with the adverse effect of inflation on working capital requirements.

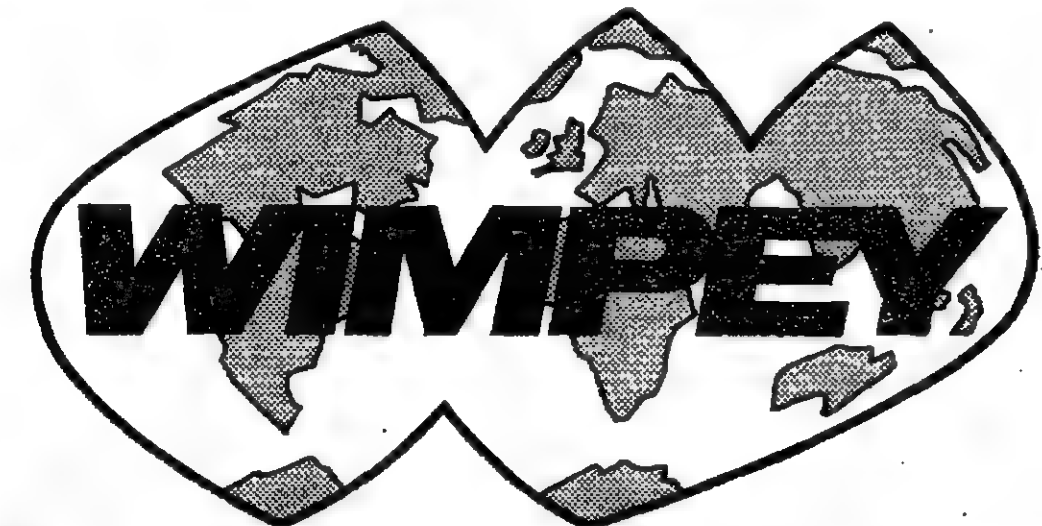
Borel £9.9m rights likely

Jacques Borel International, the "European catering group,"

which was given a Stock Exchange listing last year, may make a "100m franc (£1.25m) rights issue in the middle of this year. This would be on the basis of a 1 for 5 issue at 500 francs per share. The issue will be made in advance of the 1975 date originally scheduled, provided that the Paris price of Borel shares (£51 francs yesterday) remains "at around

the proceeds of the rights issue will be used to rec-

make a "100m franc (£1.25m) rights issue in the middle of this year. This would be on the basis of a 1 for 5 issue at 500 francs per share. The issue will be made in advance of the 1975 date originally scheduled, provided that the Paris price of Borel shares (£51 francs yesterday) remains "at around



Another record year at home and overseas

It has been a very good year for Wimpey. A year of increased profits and increased turnover. Here are some of the highlights from the statement circulated to shareholders for the year to 31 December 1974 by the Chairman, Mr R H Gane.

The value of work executed by the Group, including that proportion relative to associated companies, was a record £380 million. This compares with £332 million in 1973. The profit for 1974 after tax was £16,176,345 compared with £15,981,181.

One of the significant features was the successful growth and performance of George Wimpey International, the subsidiary formed in 1973 to co-ordinate overseas activities. It is encouraging, in the first full year of operation, that results on overseas contracts have improved.

United Kingdom. The country's economic downturn badly affected the construction industry and caused many problems. Despite this, however, we increased our programme for local authorities by 30%, handing over 12,200 dwellings constructed in our No-Fines technique and modernising over 4,000 sub-standard houses and flats.

We were also able to sell 8,000 homes to private purchasers.

Civil engineering activities were affected considerably by the energy crisis in the early part of the year but we maintained a high turnover on building contracts and on our major road programme.

Wimpey Asphalt achieved a considerable increase in turnover with good results for the year despite a massive rise in hydrocarbon prices.

North Sea. An important achievement of the year was the successful completion of "Highland One", the world's largest offshore drilling rig, constructed at Nigg Bay in Scotland by our associated company Brown & Root-Wimpey Highlands Fabricators for the BP Forties oilfield. Construction of a second rig for BP is well advanced and Burmah Oil have ordered one for the Ninian Field.

Wimpey Marine continues to expand its activities in servicing North Sea oil rigs and has taken delivery of 5 new tug/supply vessels.

Overseas. Our endeavours to increase overseas operations have met with considerable success. The main growth areas have been Iran and the Middle East where we have a record workload. Activities on the African continent include a £30 million contract in Zaire for re-construction of airfields. In Nigeria we are building a large extension to Michelin's tyre factory in Port Harcourt.

Turnover in Canada increased to £28 million.

Record Order Book. We started 1975 with a record order book. The upsurge of work overseas, particularly in Iran and the Middle East contributed to this as did our involvement with the development of North Sea oil. The outlook in the UK for the construction industry is depressing but we expect to increase output of private and local authority housing. Thus the broad base of our activities is of considerable strength in facing the challenge of the current year.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts are available from: The Secretary, George Wimpey & Co. Limited, 27 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN.

	1974	1973
Turnover	£380 million	£332 million
Profit before tax	£33,447,898	£32,384,239
Profit after tax	£16,176,345	£15,981,181
Dividend	£1,329,614	£1,181,880
Earnings per share	12.6p	12.5p



Contractors to the world

Friends' Provident Life Office
Chairman's Statement

Points from the Statement by E.W. Phillips, F.R.S.E., to be submitted at the 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Friends' Provident Life Office which will be held on Wednesday, 14th May, 1975 at Pisham End, Dorking, Surrey.

BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

We were much saddened by the recent and sudden death of our Deputy Chairman, Alfred Braithwaite, who had served on the Board for nearly 35 years. His exceptional contribution to our affairs was greatly valued by all who knew him for his wisdom and understanding.

THE CENTURY INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

The transaction of short-term business had its share of difficulties in 1974 and in the second half of the year, following the publication of the new Department of Trade regulations, we became increasingly concerned about the future financing of The Century's development programme at home and overseas. Under the financial structure of the Group the parent Life Office was the only source of funds for The Century and its subsidiaries apart from retained earnings. The principles behind the revised supervisory regulations were clearly incompatible with our structure, a particularly unattractive prospect at a time when substantial resources were being raised.

Any limitations on our ability to expand the principal subsidiary as an asset would have become increasingly detrimental to the interests of both policyholders and staff. Therefore, we considered our best course was to face the situation before any damage had been done. After an examination of various alternatives an answer was found in the agreement with the Phoenix Assurance Company Limited announced last November, whereby ownership and management of The Century and its subsidiaries passed to the Phoenix at the end of 1974 in exchange for a substantial interest in that company. We retained control of the long-term business, principally the Permanent Health account.

The Board have been most grateful for the understanding support of friends and shareholders as well as the staff world-wide throughout a testing period.

LONG-TERM BUSINESS

Despite the uncertainty caused by the cancellation of the State Reserve Scheme, 1974 was particularly satisfactory year for the development of our portfolio of occupational pension schemes. I can only hope this year, as I did last, that the Social Security Pension Bill now before Parliament will emerge with an agreed basis for a State Pension Scheme so that some certainty may at last apply to the future planning of private schemes.

Ordinary Life business was undoubtedly affected by the economic conditions and our staff were specially branches in the United Kingdom, and the Life Marketing Organisation established early in 1974 for the D.K. and Republic of Ireland were devoting much time during the year to their preparations for the future, but we did produce a much more business as in the previous year and we expect to see more benefit from their efforts this year. For long-term business as a whole our annual premium income increased by 13.7%.

It was an excellent year for our Permanent Health Insurance business, particularly for group schemes arranged by employers for their staffs. We were pleased by the way in which brokers and agents received new contracts offered at the beginning of 1974.

World-wide inflation in our operating expenses is increasingly difficult to control, a major worry in a long-term business such as ours. In this country especially I can only hope once again that the Government will adopt policies which will lower the rate of inflation.

LEGISLATION

We support the need for legislation to help prevent a repetition of the disturbing situation which received wide publicity in 1974 but we hope the Department of Trade regulations will not unnecessarily handicap sound and reputable offices. However, the Government has also proposed a guarantee against failure, operated by a statutory body, which would require the obligations of a company in liquidation from a levy on other insurers. The insurance industry very much doubted the wisdom of the concept that prudent policyholders should subsidise the imprudent. However, the Government's determination to proceed has led to a marked effect on the industry has recognised the necessity to cooperate in order to establish the best guarantee scheme in the circumstances and to ensure that in its implementation they would play a leading role.

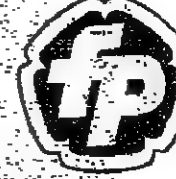
INVESTMENTS

1974 was the most worrying period for long-term investors which has been seen for several decades. One most important factor was the interest rate structure which during the year moved upwards so what would have been regarded as a completely impossible level only a short time before and this had a marked effect on the valuation of all securities including property.

During 1974, while building up a reasonable reserve of liquidity, additions were made at attractive levels to bonds, the fixed interest portfolio in the United Kingdom. These investments, the switch from equities to fixed interest investments in 1973 and some improvement in ordinary share dividends, contributed to a high level of yield of 8.1% on the fund (or 10.1% on the fund adjusted for investment depreciation).

We have for some years shown our investments, other than mortgages, in the balance sheet at market values. This year, due to the very depressed levels of investment values at the year end, realised and unrealised depreciation totalled £71.8m compared with an appreciation of £43.4m at the end of 1973. However, the investment held at the end of 1974 included fixed interest securities with a market value of £98m and a redemption value of £189m. I am pleased to say that at the time of writing this statement the improvement in market values since the year end has eliminated the depreciation referred to above. These changes in market value of investments are not of great concern to a long-term financial institution provided that the investments are fundamentally secure in capital and income and that the value of the liabilities changes similarly. The essential factor was that the Actuary was able to certify at the year end that our liabilities were less than the market value of our investments.

The fall in the value of our investments has made it necessary for us to review the basis on which we are prepared to surrender Life policies in order to ensure that there is equity between the surrendering policyholders and those who surrender contracts before their due date. Similarly with the large fall in the value of ordinary shares and the weakness in the valuation of properties, we have had to reduce the rates of terminal bonus for Life policies which, as I have repeatedly stated, are based on the performance of our equity investment portfolio. The matter which, I think, was the greatest cause for concern in 1974 was the almost complete disappearance of a capital market. If the capitalist system is to survive it is imperative that financial institutions should support industry and it is appropriate that a vehicle was found through Finance for industry to enable this to be done. I repeat what I said in 1973 that it is essential that institutions should fulfil their responsibilities as shareholders and I hope that the organisation of institutional shareholders which was established in that year, but which appears to have operated in a low key, will strengthen its performance in order to achieve that end and be seen to be doing so.



Friends for Life

Chief Administration: 7 Leadenhall Street, London, EC3P 3BA.

The loss jolts Nairn Williamson

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I. J. Dewhurst
With last term's profits up 2 per cent to a record \$487,000 pre-tax, I. J. Dewhurst, clothing manufacturers and wholesalers, say the current half should produce a satisfactory increase. But

Schroders' view is that both the name and the terms of the issue—94 per cent for seven years, priced at 99—have been well received, but that the market is just not ripe for an issue of this size. Rather than see the bond price tumble hard in the secondary market it has opted for a smaller issue.

Business appointments

Mining

Earnings amount to 1¢ a share compared with \$1.15 the first quarter of 1971. That Lornex sold entirely to Japanese smelters, whereas the bulk of Palabora output is destined for Europe, spells out its own particular message. What once appeared one of the brighter stars in the mining world can probably be best forgotten until British Columbia begins to treat the mining industry as a long term asset to be nurtured.

Andrew Wilson

Earnings amount to 1c a share compared with \$115 in the first quarter of 1974. That Lornell sells entirely to Japanese smelters, whereas the bulk of Palabora output is destined for Europe, spells out its own particular message. What once appeared one of the brighter stars in the mining world can probably be best forgotten until British Columbia begins to treat the mining industry as a long term asset to be nurtured.

Mr. J. R. Wells has become a director of Richard Costain, Ltd. Dr. D. Nevill, chairman of Western Metals, has resigned from the board of Midland-Yorkshire Holdings.

Mr John S. Porter becomes vice-president and manager of Rainier, Ltd., London branch of the United Kingdom activity from May 1. He will be assisted by Mr. George L. Ellis who on the same date becomes vice-president and general manager. Mr. Edmund Hornewood is to be head of the bank's foreign exchange and money market activity in London.

Mr Brian Lacey has joined the newly formed Harnam & Cubitt Construction (London).

Dr R. C. Parker and Mr. S. C. Clifford will retire from the board of Kerode on April 30. Mr Clifford, chairman and managing director

director. Plans Joachim Witt is joining the board of executive directors of BASF Aktiengesellschaft with effect from July 1.

Mr Gerald Hoopes will become the new sales manager of Rascals Thermolux.

Mr R. Griffin and Mr Lelliford have joined the board of Profile Partitioning.

Mr W. A. Somers has ceased to be a director of Mitchell Somers.

Mr Michael Alliman joins the board of Victoria Carpets Holdings.

Mr W. N. Danielsson becomes a non-executive director of A. Jenks and Cattell.

Mr D. G. Hanton becomes company secretary of Associated Engineering.

Mr George Burner has joined the board of General Scottish Trust.

MITSUBISHI ISSUE
Arab Financial Consultants and Kuwait International Investment Company, along with Nomura Securities, have arranged a \$30m convertible bond issue by Mitsubishi Corporation. This is the first issue of convertible bonds by Mitsubishi Corporation to have been placed in Kuwait and other Arab markets.

[illegible]

A considerable increase in business in the opening months of this year is reported by M. H. Wilson Bennetts, chairman and managing director of the Carron Company, in his review. Activity is returning to the levels experienced in the earlier part of last year and the chairman confirms that the company should be working at a higher level of profit later this year than has been reached in the past.

Against a background of falling sales over the last six or seven months no side of the business has lost its share of the available trade.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Limited announces that with effect from 23rd April 1975, its Base Rate for lending is being reduced from 10½ per annum to 8½ per annum.

The maximum rate of interest allowed on Deposits lodged for a minimum period of seven days or subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal at the London Offices of the Bank will be reduced from 7½ per annum to 6½ per annum.

Manager: Mr. Urs Peter Bürgi

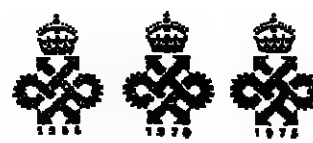
	1974 £000	1973 £000
Turnover	54,551	43,460
Trading Profit	6,940	4,441
Net profit for year	3,363	1,776
Acquisitions and other capital expenditure	11,496	3,643
Exports— % of UK sales shipped overseas	78%	80%
No. of employees	8,963	8,091

Towards the end of the year the Group acquired The Langston Company of New Jersey, U.S.A, a leading producer of machinery for the manufacture and conversion of corrugated board. Langston, now managed with Masson Scott Thrissell as the Paper and Packaging

Orders outstanding at the end of the year were satisfactory, and, although there are major uncertainties in the outlook for the future, the Group expects to make further progress during the current year. The Group is intensifying its research and development programmes to maintain the technical excellence of its equipment and is further investing in the modernisation and expansion of production capacity in U.K., Brazil and U.S.

MOLINS

International Precision Engineers



Stock Exchange Prices

Profit taking in equities

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, April 21. Dealings End, May 2. § Contango Day, May 5. Settlement Day, May 13.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Ansafone
HAVE A **ONE YEAR** CONTRACT
Let Ansafone answer your phone
19 Upper Brook Street, London W1Y 2HS.
RING ANYTIME 01-629 9232

[illegible]

General and General Appointments

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
GAZETTE COMPANY
 requires the following staff:

INSTRUCTION WRITER
 must have knowledge of dressmaking and to type clear, concise instructions for garments.

RN CUTTER AND GRADER
 to work out making diagrams and produce patterns for cut-out outfits.

ring details of age and experience to a Cook, Central Fashion Department, I.P.C. Magazines Ltd, 5/9 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

RECEPTIONIST

Professional Firm in the City is looking for aged between 18 and 21 with the ability to work with people. The work is interesting and the office pleasant and modern.

Her good progressive salary, plus L.V.s and usual holiday.
 For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

OUNTANT

1. A qualified accountant with 2-3 years experience in a firm of accountants. The work is varied and the office is pleasant. Salary is £2,500 p.a. plus L.V.s and usual holiday. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

AN DIOR

Don. Assistant in the City is looking for aged between 18 and 21 with the ability to work with people. The work is interesting and the office pleasant and modern.

LATOR/STARY

Unpublished letters. Some of the letters are of a personal nature and some are of a business nature. The work is interesting and the office pleasant and modern.

TOPHER

WNEEL. In the City is looking for aged between 18 and 21 with the ability to work with people. The work is interesting and the office pleasant and modern.

SSISTANT

about a choice of 10. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

L.V.S.

Unpublished letters. Some of the letters are of a personal nature and some are of a business nature. The work is interesting and the office pleasant and modern.

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SECRETARIAL

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
AREA OFFICER'S SECRETARY
 (3 posts)
 £2,342-£2,534 p.a.

The Community policy establishing decentralized Area Offices necessitates reorganization of staff. Three new secretarial posts have to be filled before removal to different premises; one vacancy arising at the Balham, Battersea and Wandsworth (Central) Area Offices respectively. In addition to the normal secretarial functions these posts offer a wide range of responsible and highly confidential work involving the Areas' Senior Social Workers and Area Administrative Officers. The Area Officer's Secretary will, for example, be present at case conferences, meetings with representatives of allied agencies, voluntary bodies, etc., where it will be necessary to take notes and minutes. Minimum shorthand and typing speeds of 30 w.p.m. and 50 w.p.m. respectively are required. We are looking for intelligent and competent persons to fill these three posts, having a warm personality, initiative and resourcefulness. An interest in, and appreciation of, the work of the Social Services Department will be an advantage. Applications should be sent to the Area Office at which you would like to be employed. Application forms and further details may be obtained by contacting the Area Office at which you would like to be employed.
BALHAM: Miss Sue Baldry, Town Hall, S.W.18 (Telephone 774 5000).
BATTERSEA: Miss Marilyn Street, 207 Lavender Hill, S.W.11 (Telephone 228 8895, ext. 395/461).
WANDSWORTH: Mr. R. Hewitt, Town Hall, S.W.18. Telephone 774 6464, ext. 235.

LA CREME DE LA CREME

This is how Miss Jean Brodie referred to her girls: "We think our girls are even better than hers." So our new Top Secretarial and General Appointments will appear -

EVERY WEDNESDAY
 For those really top appointments - that is with salaries over £2,600 p.a. - La Creme de la Creme is the ONLY place to advertise.

For more information ring The Times Appointments Team, 01-278 9161, now.

THERE'S MORE TO A JOB

COMMUNITIES ADMINISTRATION
 This is how Miss Jean Brodie referred to her girls: "We think our girls are even better than hers." So our new Top Secretarial and General Appointments will appear -

3-DAY WEEK

The Managing Director of our Public Company is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

STELLA FISHER

American Lawyer's Secretary. Stella Fisher is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

YOUNG SOLICITORS

In the City requires a Secretary. Young Solicitors is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

Our clients are looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

HARLEY STREET

CLERK TYPIST. Harley Street is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

THE MUFFIELD FOUNDATION

Requires a Secretary. The Muffield Foundation is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT

Secretaries. Temporary and Permanent Secretaries are looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

AMERICAN LAW FIRM

Requires a Secretary. American Law Firm is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

AUDIO SECRETARY

Wanted for a firm of accountants. Audio Secretary is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

TEMP. SECRETARY FOR

Public Relations. Temp. Secretary for Public Relations is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

English speaking. International Secretary is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

WANTED: An audio Secretary

for a firm of accountants. Wanted: An audio Secretary for a firm of accountants is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

SECRETARY FOR

Public Relations. Secretary for Public Relations is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

SECRETARIAL

GUINNESS LEADS
 Guinness Leads is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

JOYCE KITCHES
 Joyces Kitchens is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

LONDON DIRECTOR

OF OVERSEAS COMPANY
 London Director of Overseas Company is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

FA/SECRETARY

Salary negotiable. FA/Secretary is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

PARTNER'S SECRETARY

with conversational English. Partner's Secretary is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

CLUB MEDITERRANEE

(FRENCH TRAVEL FIRM)
 Club Mediterranee is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

PERSONAL SECRETARY

To a Partner of heavy firm. Personal Secretary is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

WINE MERCHANTS

S.W.I. Wine Merchants is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

UNFLAPPABLE

A small contemporary Art Gallery. Unflappable is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Small Company in Chancery. Advertising Director is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

GENOA

Prominent shipping lawyer. Genoa is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

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Secretary to P.A. From Secretary to P.A. is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

LADY EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

Required part time. Lady Experienced Secretary is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

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AMERICAN DIRECTOR OF NEW

Company. American Director of New Company is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

£2,600 PLUS BONUS P.A./Sec

Office Manager. £2,600 Plus Bonus P.A./Sec is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

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M.A. PERSONNEL

West End. M.A. Personnel is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

WEST END ART GALLERY

Requires a Secretary. West End Art Gallery is looking for a competent P.A./SECRETARY who could handle his general routine and correspondence on a 3-day week. It is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

SECRETARIAL

THE DORCHESTER
 a first-class luxury W.I. hotel
 requires

SECRETARY
 to the Company Secretary
 Duties will be of a confidential and responsible nature involving considerable and varied telephone work.

To fill this position we are looking for an intelligent, well educated young lady, preferably over 19 years of age, with accurate shorthand and typing speeds.

Hours of work are 9.00 a.m.-5.30 p.m. Free lunches are provided by the hotel.

If you would enjoy an interesting job based in an office with other young secretaries, please contact:

The Employment Officer on 01-639 8888

SECRETARY

to Advertising Agency Director
 Salary up to £2,200

We need a good all round secretary to work in our advertising agency located in modern offices in the City. Must be a good typist and have good shorthand/typing skills and be prepared to become part of a hard working team.

Hours are 9.30 to 5.30, 4 weeks holiday, L.V.s.
 For more information please ring Bruce Cattell on 01-638 6188.

FOSTER TURNER & BENSON,
 St. Albans House, Fore Street, EC2Y 5DP

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

68 Pall Mall, S.W.1.
SECRETARY
 You may be the girl we are looking for. We need a Secretary to work for young Head of European Sales Division. This is an interesting position. First class salary and pleasant working conditions.

Please telephone 01-639 8010

CLUB MEDITERRANEE

(FRENCH TRAVEL FIRM)
 Requires an intelligent and efficient girl for their French Club office to help with the day to day running of the office. This is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,500 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

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SECRETARIAL

GIRL FRIDAY SECRETARY
 Wanted to help organize the smooth running of a luxurious Mayfair office with operations in Europe and U.K.

Attractive 20-year-old, well groomed, intelligent girl with personality and sense of humour.
 £2,200 p.a. plus free lunches. 9.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m.
 Interested? Ring Barbara King after 10 a.m.

01-491 7008/3519

A FLAVOUR OF CONTINENTAL TRAVEL

Chairman of a small Group of Companies based North of London seeks lady Assistant of not less than 28 with good experience as a confidential Personal Secretary/typist. Preferably with own car. Able to handle correspondence on own initiative. Excellent spreads both shorthand/typing. Work includes dealing with properties, continental travel and a variety of administrative and personal matters.

SALARY OF AROUND £3,000 PLUS BONUS AND SOME TRAVEL CONCESSIONS.

Please write Box 1251 M, The Times.

WEST END MERCHANT BANK

requires
AUDIO SECRETARY and AUDIO TYPISTS
 (some secretarial)

used 21 plus, for both the Mortgage and Building Division. Interesting work in a busy, happy organization. Hours 9.00-5.00, 5-day week. 4 weeks' holiday. Light lunches provided. Salaries negotiable up to £2,500 or an hourly rate of up to £1.50 per hour depending on applicants.

Tel: 637 1124, ext. 16

ATTRACTIVE ROLE FOR LIVELY SENIOR SECRETARY

£2,400
 Two young executives, one American, one English, need a well spoken, well dressed Secretary, aged 25-35, to work in their City company. This is a very interesting and varied job. Salary is £2,400 p.a. on the 3-day week. For more details and interview phone JUDY KING on 01-500 6424

PRESTIGE RECEPTIONIST

The Head Office of an international firm is looking for a Receptionist. This is a very interesting and

MONDAY - \$10.99
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 THURSDAY - \$12.99
 FRIDAY - \$12.99
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KITCHENS
 INCLUDE AN
 OVERNIGHT
 STAY IN
 BATHROOM
 EVENING MEAL
 30%
 BREAKFAST

MARBELLA
 \$28.00 \$53.00

FORMER
 STAY-VAC
 ROOMS
 CALLING
 FOR ONLY
 30% OFF

